

**Suzanne Moore
on Cherie Blair**

Commentators, page 17



Get Emma
Why Tory women
want her head



Section Two, cover story

THE INDEPENDENT

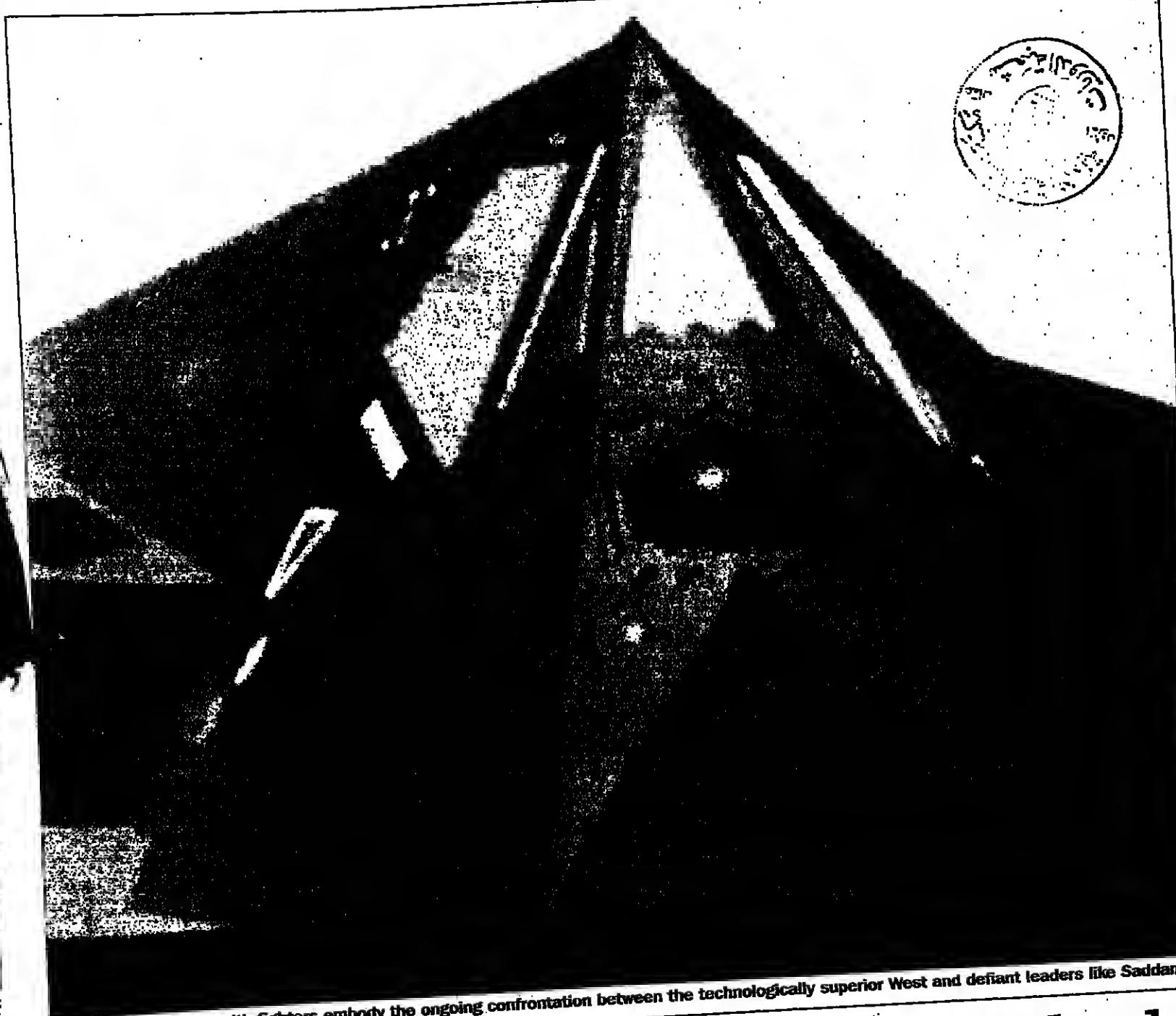
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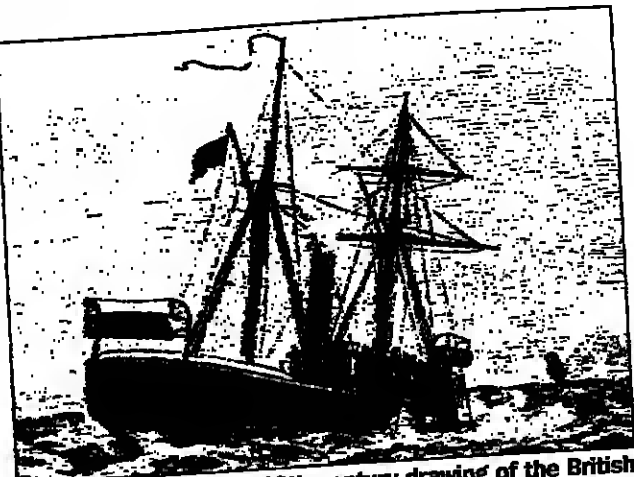
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Sabre-rattling by Stealth: the gunboat diplomacy of our time

By John Lichfield



Clinton's arsenal: Stealth fighters embody the ongoing confrontation between the technologically superior West and defiant leaders like Saddam



The original version: A 19th-century drawing of the British gun-boat 'Victoria' Photograph: Hulton-Getty

Lord Palmerston had it easier and certainly cheaper. A gun-boat dispatched to lob shells at coastal cities would, a century ago, rapidly concentrate the minds of recalcitrant potentates (or so we are told). President Bill Clinton, commander in chief of the most powerful, the most complex, certainly the most expensive, military force ever assembled, is finding late 20th century gunboat diplomacy somewhat trickier.

Ten days ago the US President struck at Saddam Hussein from the Pacific Ocean with missiles worth \$1m (£660,000) each, capable (so we are told) of hitting half a football pitch in the Sahara from a range of 700 miles. Last night he was preparing to attack President Saddam from New Mexico, via Kuwait, with F-117 stealth fighter-bombers invisible to radar. Each aircraft is worth \$42.6m - enough to fund the annual income of 40,000 average Iraqis.

How do we know that these secretive aircraft are on the way? Because the US media says so and the US media was told by the US government. It may seem strange to spend billions of dollars on stealth technology to facilitate tactical surprises only to tell your enemy that you are about to attack. But that just shows how confident in its military technology the US government is: and how intricate and bizarre are the politics of what is going on in the Gulf.

Why is President Clinton flying the stealth fighters all the way from New Mexico to Kuwait, as well as deploying B-52s carrying cruise missiles from the British Indian Ocean Island of Diego Garcia? Are they the best military weapon for the military job? No. He has 130 planes nearer to hand, equally capable of hurting Saddam. The F-117s are flying half way around the

world because they are the best politico-military weapon for the politico-military job of striking Saddam with the lowest possible risk of US casualties or captives.

Washington developed its extraordinary arsenal of computer and satellite controlled weaponry to give it an edge in the Third World War (since cancelled). Instead, the machines are providing a comforting extension to the political options available to US presidents trying to face down megalomaniac dictators in strategically important regions.

In one sense they could be said to be feeding a grand illusion: that battles can be fought purely from the air, with minimal risk of casualties to your own side. Battles can certainly be fought that way but the events of the last few days suggest that they cannot necessarily be won that way. The cruise missile strikes last week trashed some of the air-defence sites rebuilt by Saddam since the Gulf War in 1991. But, by Washington's own admission, Iraq has reassembled the sites to the point where they threaten once again the non-stealthy US and British and French planes pa-

trolling the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq.

The absurdities in the latest after-shock from the Gulf war are manifest. But it is easier to point this out than to suggest a politically feasible alternative course of action. The principle alternative to containing Saddam is not containing him. Possibly, the US should have reacted sooner to the Iraqi military moves in the north and the appeals for aid of the Kurdish Democratic Party. But President Clinton was understandably reluctant to be sucked into the faction fighting.

The absurdities of the present situation are deeper-rooted: first, the reluctance of the US, and the rest of the Gulf alliance, to finish off Saddam in 1991; second, the failure since then to develop a coherent strategy for de-stabilising him. Our only policy is to hit Saddam whenever he stirs in his cage. The Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, said yesterday that the US was in danger of looking "like an isolated bully using very sophisticated weapons to oo purpose. So we look arrogant and impotent at the same time."

US attack, page 11

Young persons' light music combo have spat

DAVID LISTER
arts news editor



Oasis, the biggest selling and most argumentative band in the brief history of Britpop may be no more. If so, it was a short, highly lucrative and pleasingly melodic (if derivative) flirtation with global fame.

Just five years and two albums from washing cars in Manchester, the Gallagher brothers, Noel, 29, and Liam, 23, are today in different continents, and not even oo swearing terms.

Certainties are few in the disintegration of a rock group: an argument between its two front-men caused Noel to fly back to London midway through their American tour. They had just completed their tour in Charlotte, North Carolina, when the latest feud erupted. A five-hour summit meeting took place between the brothers, at-

tended by the actress Patsy Kensit, fiancée of Liam. Band insiders said Liam was tearful and questioning whether he could carry on. Noel's storming out early gave the tour a sort of symmetry as brother Liam had previously stormed in late.

Their record company, Creation Records, last night acknowledged in an unusually frank statement for a record company that "Oasis have hit internal differences on their tour of America which has resulted in the tour being pulled two thirds of the way through."

The rest is deduction. One can deduce, for example, that the Americans are unlikely to invite them back in a hurry (the tour started without Liam who was househunting and sulking); and that having brothers in a rock band can be bad for the health (intercine struggles have hit The Kinks, Dire Straits and The Beach Boys).

If the Manchester hand have played their last gig then they leave an impressive array of statistics and impressions behind them. They have only released two albums, but the second, (What's The Story?) Morning Glory?, with 9.5m sales worldwide is one of the biggest sellers of all time. Noel's songwriting won an Ivor Novello award, their concerts broke attendance records indoors and out, with the 250,000 who saw them at Knebworth last month the biggest British paying audience for a single music act ever; their live show was frenetic and exciting, and frequent boasts of boorish behaviour almost fulfilled every pop group's wish and alienated an older generation.

But only almost. The older generation also warned to Oasis because at times they sounded like The Beatles, though not in their wit which was definite-

ly sub-Lennon, as Liam's spitting and heer throwing at a recording for MTV in New York last week demonstrated.

The Oasis story may be a romantic tale of working class lads achieving fame, riches and glamorous middle class actresses beyond their wildest dreams. But as Beatles fans will remember, at a time of suspected break-up, romantic memories are overshadowed by hard business realities.

Oasis are all millionaires, even the non-Gallaghers with names oo one can remember. Their album remains in the charts in Britain and America, and their record company is unlikely to countenance the end of such a money making machine without a fight.

But it's an ill wind ... if the demise of Oasis is genuine, then welcome back Blur, Britpop's other crown princes who have been rather quiet of late

UK may hand back Nazi gold

ANTHONY BEVINS
and LOUISE JURY

Nazi gold worth more than £35m held in the vaults of the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve for half a century may be sent back to 10 European countries next week.

There was an outcry from Labour MPs and Jewish groups, which last night urged the Government to block its release, saying it should be distributed to Holocaust victims. Jeff Rooker, a Labour MP who has been asking Commons questions about the gold for more a decade, said: "If Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is urging the Swiss to act with honour in this matter, what about us?"

In 1946, Britain, the US and France set up a commission to handle bullion liberated from the Nazis. Some of it has been distributed to governments of Nazi-occupied territory but 7,136kg, worth \$85m, is still in the vaults of the Bank of England and of the Federal Reserve. The Albanians have a legitimate claim to 2,454kg, which was only recently settled.

But the commission has been sitting oo the remaining, unclaimed 4,682kg since 1946, pending agreement on the unrelated Albanian question. It is that Nazi gold, in bars and coins, that is in dispute. The Rifkind Commission is to meet next Wednesday and, after 50 years' inaction, there are now

fears that it cannot get rid of the bullion quickly enough.

The current controversy over gold stolen from the Jewish victims of the Holocaust has left London, Washington and Paris exposed to charges of hypocrisy.

Under existing plans, the gold in Britain and the US will be divided up between the governments of countries occupied by the Nazis - Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Yugoslavia and Italy.

But Mr Rooker, whose questions were answered by Mr Rifkind when he was a junior Foreign Office Minister in the 1980s, said last night: "The British Government should now

use its veto to stop the gold being sent packing."

Instead, they should in all honour allow the Jewish groups and individuals who have legitimate and verifiable claims to put those claims in." That demand was endorsed by the Holocaust Educational Trust, which said one of the gold should be distributed until a full public debate had been held.

Greville Jenner MP, the trust chairman and vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, said: "The Government report told us that the commission in 1946 was too lazy to process individual claims. They should do so now or hand the rest of the gold to the World Jewish Restitution Organisation to do so."

QUICKLY

Anger over hours
EU plans to extend the maximum 48-hour week to oew groups of workers, including doctors and transport workers, provoked anger from Tory Euro-sceptics. Page 5

National addiction
An estimated 1.5 million Britons are "problem gamblers", including pathological punters and teoagers obsessed with fruit machines, according to a report. Page 5

Hong Kong exodus
Research suggests the exodus from Hong Kong will increase this year, with more than 1,000 a people leaving each week - a level not seen since the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Page 13

Jamiroquai
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news

Beef war: Little hope of concession as Cabinet bids to placate farming lobby

Collision set with EU over cattle cull

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

John Major and his Cabinet colleagues yesterday endorsed a low-key collision course with Brussels over the level of the anti-BSE beef cull.

Following a Downing Street ministerial meeting, the Prime Minister's office said that Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, would be going to Brussels on Monday to present new evidence suggesting that the high cull agreed at the June summit in Florence was no longer necessary.

Ministers have no hope, given the hostility of the Germans and the Florence framework agreed by Mr Major, that concessions will be made in the lifting of the ban on British beef sales to Europe.

They therefore believe that they might as well accept those realities, and ease up on the cull programme so that - at the very least - Conservative MPs are kept happy.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said last night that the initial cull figure had been put at 38,000; later extended by up to 42,000 more cattle; with a further addition of 40,000.

Given the fact that no cattle aged over 30 months are allowed into the food chain, Conservative farming interests bitterly resent the additional kill calculations.

That view has been strengthened by recent academic research showing that the disease is anyway being eradicated with-

out the extra slaughter. "The question now, 'is why bother?'"

Other Whitehall sources said Mr Hogg would be offering that evidence, along with evidence on maternal transmission, to the European Commission on Monday in the vain hope of winning a concession.

Although a hush-up of some kind might be expected, Whitehall sources said there was no question of Mr Hogg spoiling for a row over the matter - in marked contrast to the British policy of non-cooperation that preceded the Florence summit.

Ministers are being careful to emphasise that their prime concern is public health and safety.

They also argue, however, that the threat to the public has already been dealt with and House of Commons will not vote for further action based on Brussels prejudice, as opposed to scientific evidence.

The Downing Street meeting also agreed further measures to tackle the backlog of the programme under which all cattle over 30 months are being slaughtered.

Up to Tuesday this week, Intervention Board figures show that 477,247 cattle over 30 months had been slaughtered, along with 181,875 calves, as part of the volunteered British cull programme.

Because of a lack of capacity in the rendering industry, many of those carcasses are being held in cold-storage around the country and Roger Free-



Douglas Hogg leaving Downing Street yesterday's meeting. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

man, the Cabinet minister who has been given special responsibility for organising disposal of the slaughtered cattle, said last night that two more large grain stores were to be converted to cold storage to provide capacity for a further 25,000 carcasses.

He also said that the ministry was to carry out an urgent survey of 5,000 livestock

holdings to make sure that the civil service had "an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the actual size of backlog" of 30-month cattle still awaiting slaughter.

Gays are urged to 'queer the vote'

ANTHONY BEVINS

A mobilisation of the homosexual and lesbian vote against homophobic MPs was urged yesterday by Outrage, the "gay rights" campaign group.

Publishing a list of the country's 30 most marginal constituencies, where the homosexual and lesbian vote could make a difference, Outrage's Peter Hatchell urged supporters to "queer the vote" by getting on to the electoral register in advance of next month's annual deadline.

He said that candidates should be quizzed on their attitude towards gay issues, and people should vote against the homophobic.

The list of "target" key marginals included a number of Labour and Liberal Democrat constituencies - along with the voting record of their MPs on three test issues, including Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act, banning authorities from promoting homosexuality.

Because a number of the Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs were not in the House in 1988, the Outrage disclosure that they "didn't vote", either because they were absent or not elected at the time, could give a misleading impression.

Harry Cohen and Jeremy Corbyn, London Labour MPs, warned that all candidates should be aware that bigotry could lose votes, and that there should be a clear Labour manifesto commitment to homosexual equality at 16.

The campaign documents left Walter Sweeney, Conservative MP for Vale of Glamorgan, a man with a notional majority of 19 votes after boundary redistribution, looking particularly vulnerable. He is recorded as having voted for 21 as the age of homosexual consent, and for a ban on gays in the armed forces.

Outrage estimated that 3,000 to 6,000 voters might be poised to punish Mr Sweeney, and others like him.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, which cancelled a life-saving heart operation for a two-year-old girl six times, has been ordered to review its procedures by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, who said yesterday that the situation was "unacceptable". The hospital has apologised to the parents of Emily Casey, and promised that every effort will be made to see that she has her heart operation, now scheduled for 25 September.

Emily's heart defect was diagnosed when she was just a month old. At six months she underwent an operation to stem the flow of blood to her lungs. Now surgeons have to rebuild her defective heart using a vein taken from her neck. Previous operations at the hospital had to be called off, either because of emergency admissions of other young patients or when members of the operating team became unavailable. *Liz Hunt*

Advice agencies could boycott the Lord Chancellor's White Paper on legal aid reform, in protest at having to charge or means-test their clients, the Government was warned yesterday. The prediction, from Steve Johnson, director of the Federation of Independent Advice Centres came as it joined with nine other legal and charitable organisations to issue a joint statement opposing the plans.

The organisations - the Law Society, the Advice Services Alliance, the Law Centres Federation, the Federation of Independent Advice Centres, Liberty, Justice, the Child Poverty Action Group, Shelter, the Public Law Project and the Legal Action Group - said the plans would do nothing to improve individuals' access to justice but would deter many ordinary people from pursuing or defending their legal rights. The capping of aid spending for the first time and the introduction of heavier liabilities to pay contributions and opponents' costs are at the heart of the changes set out by Lord Mackay of Clashfern. *Patricia Wynn Davies*

A distraught mother was reunited with her baby daughter last night, after her estranged husband ended 48 hours of anguish and returned the child. Ninah Richards, 11 months, was found safe and well in Canterbury, Kent, following a nationwide alert for her and her father, Paul, and an emotional plea by her mother.

Police had expressed concern for the safety of Ninah after her 26-year-old father, who was known to be depressed at the break-up of his marriage and to have contemplated suicide, took her on Tuesday from her home in Winchester, Hampshire. Yesterday afternoon, father and baby went into a solicitor's office in Canterbury, and police in Hampshire were alerted. The child was temporarily put into the care of social services and her father was being questioned by police.

Complaints against police have been upheld and resulted in prosecution or formal discipline in about 2 per cent of the 23,590 cases filed in the past year. Of the 749 substantiated complaints to March 1996, 260 officers were convicted of criminal offences. The vast bulk of complaints - about three quarters - were informally resolved or withdrawn. The police received 63,500 commendations from the public in the same period.

Home Office statistics also revealed that 50 people died while in police custody in England and Wales during 1995/96. *Jason Bennett*

Former policeman Peter Martin was jailed for 20 years after systematically raping and sexually abusing would-be teenage models "to satisfy his own evil lust". Martin, 56, a model agency boss, and associate of jailed tycoon and rapist Owen Oyston, turned to the public gallery, winked and smiled as he was led down the steps of Manchester Crown Court to begin his sentence.

But his former lover and assistant Tracey Grainey, 30, was cleared of all four sex charges against her. Sentencing Martin, Judge Brian Carter QC said: "The parents of the girls involved trusted you and relied on you to look after their daughters, starting at your agency well under the age of 16 in some cases. You emphasised to the parents that you were an ex-police officer and therefore could be trusted."

The row surrounding an allegedly disruptive pupil threatened to reopen last night after an acrimonious meeting between parents and school governors. Parents had returned their children to Manton Junior School, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire, after two days of disruption in protest at the one-to-one tuition arranged for 10-year-old Matthew Wilson.

The meeting, designed to find a compromise solution, broke up after 45 minutes, and it was clear that an agreement was out of reach. Some parents threatened to keep their children away from the school today.

Conservative MP Anthony Steen recovered £100,000 libel damages plus costs against the *Mail on Sunday* yesterday. A story it published, headlined "Tory MP quizzed as £100,000 of charity money goes missing" was "utterly untrue, mistaken and without foundation," said a statement from Mr Steen's solicitors, Brooke Blair Russell.

Mr Steen, the MP for South Hams, set up the Task Force charity in the 1960s for young people to give practical help to the lonely and elderly. The newspaper claimed Mr Steen was refusing to account for the cash's disappearance to the Charity Commission. The case was settled out of court.

The Labour Party may call the Conservatives liars, but the Tories are not allowed to suggest that Tony Blair is "sinister and dishonest", the Advertising Standards Authority ruled yesterday. In its second controversial judgment in a month, it dismissed complaints against Labour's advertising slogan, "Same old Tories, same old lies".

Seven individual Tory supporters had complained that the posters, a response to the Tory "New Labour, New Danger" campaign, were offensive. Last month Tory Central Office was ordered not to repeat its advertisement showing the Labour leader with "demonic" eyes. Political advertising is exempt from the ASA code on "factual accuracy and truthfulness", but is still covered by provisions of "taste and decency" and privacy, the latter being banned. *John Rentoul*

Television advertisements for the controversial Church of Scientology will be screened in Britain for the first time next week as part of a major recruitment drive. The sect, whose members include film actors Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Priscilla Presley, is spending £70,000 on advertising to raise its profile. The advertisement will run for a month on satellite channels UK Gold and UK Living.

PR firm relaunches Harman school

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Harriet Harman's local comprehensive school has hired a public relations firm and changed its name to smarten up its image.

The former William Penn comprehensive in Dulwich, rejected by Labour's health spokeswoman in favour of a selective school 10 miles away, will be relaunched next week as Dulwich High School for Boys.

Its governors have paid an undisclosed sum to the Knightsbridge-based Shandwick Communications to oversee the reopening of the school, Southwark Council has paid £80,000 for three new computer networks and a facelift of its buildings.

The school has endured 13 months of disastrous publicity. In April 1995 it was declared "failing" by the schools' inspection body. Ofsted. In January this year Ms Harman, who lives a mile away, announced that she was sending her son to Olave's School in Bromley.

Her decision caused a political furor, with Conservatives seizing the opportunity to denounce Labour for hypocrisy - the party's education spokesman, David Blunkett, had said there would be no more selective schools under a Labour government.

Ms Harman and her husband had already sent their elder son Harry to The Oratory, the grant-maintained school attended by Tony Blair's son, Euan.

Last night Gordon Mott, Southwark's director of education and leisure, said the Harman affair had added to William Penn's problems.

"The school did not feel it assisted its cause, but it added to its determination to show the world that some parents make mistakes," he said.

"The key issue was ensuring that the kids there get the best education possible. We didn't want to change the name in the way that nuclear power stations change their name."

The school has about 500 pupils but was built for 1,000. A spokeswoman for Shandwick Communications said the fact that the school had employed the firm showed its commitment to the relaunch. No one at the school was available for comment.

Hospital trusts conference: Cash battles dominate

NHS may help sell private insurance

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

NHS Trusts are poised to strike a deal with Norwich Union, Britain's third highest private health insurer, which could see trust hospitals promoting the sale of the company's policies to patients.

The controversial move follows a decision by BUPA earlier this year to offer its subscribers cover in a network of "preferred provider" private hospitals, which includes NHS pay beds.

The NHS Trust Federation claims that move could cost the NHS £50m over four years in lost income from BUPA private patients. This would threaten both NHS services which are subsidised by the profits the NHS makes from treating private patients, and put at risk Private Finance Initiative deals to build new NHS hospitals, which in some cases rely on revenue from private patients as well as the health service.

The likely deal with Norwich Union - and possibly other smaller private insurers - is the Trust Federation's attempt to hit back at BUPA and preserve its private patient income.

The package has yet to go to the Trust Federation's council for approval. But Marco Cereste, its chairman, said yesterday there was "definitely a deal to be done". The arrangement

could in time see NHS hospitals actively promoting Norwich Union cover to patients - the first time in the service's 50-year history that it would have actively promoted private health insurance to patients. "If there is a particular scheme which we see as of benefit to us and particularly to our patients, it would be wrong of us not to promote it," said Mr Cereste. Trusts would help sell the



product by telling patients wanting private cover that they would be "supporting your local NHS hospital" by taking a policy which would specifically cover them for treatment in NHS pay-beds.

Trusts would also emphasise the safety of private treatment in the NHS where the back-up of a full district general hospital is available on site - including the intensive care and other

facilities - which many private hospitals lack.

Earlier this year, Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, stamped on proposals that NHS trusts should enter tie-ups with private insurers to provide their own branded private medical insurance for patients.

That, he said, was "no part of the Government's plans for the NHS" and could not be introduced without "an unacceptable risk to public funds". Under the deal the federation is considering, however, trusts would merely help promote Norwich Union's product, not bear the financial risk of underwriting the cover.

Yesterday, however, he said of the proposed Norwich Union deal that its acceptability would "depend a bit on the way it is promoted". Sources at Norwich Union said the scheme would build on Trust Care, a policy it already markets which limits cover to care in NHS pay beds, whose charges in general are lower than those of private hospitals.

Bob Abberley, head of health for UNISON, the public sector union, condemned the potential deal. "This is the shape of things to come under the Tory NHS," he said. "It just proves that what we have been saying about increased privatisation is happening before our very eyes."

Pay-rise blow for nurses

Nurses should receive no national across-the-board pay rise next year, the Government is to tell their pay-review body shortly. Instead, it says, nurses' pay should be determined purely locally by NHS Trusts, writes Nicholas Timmins.

Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, said the Government, in its evidence to the review body, would be seeking "maximum discretion for meaningful local negotiations" over nurses' pay. The move came under heavy fire last night from Unison and the Royal College of Nursing. Bob Abberley, Unison's head of health, said that "the Government does not learn by experience". Last year the review body recommended a 2-per-cent national award, to be topped up locally. But to date only 26 out of 530 NHS trusts have reached a settlement on a pay award due from last April and some 200 NHS employers have yet even to make an offer.

The system, Mr Abberley said, was "a shambles". Ballots for industrial action were starting to be held and "we are going to have at the back of this year what we tried to avoid last year - some industrial action". Even some NHS employers are deserting local pay "a la fisco". Anne Gallagher, vice-chair of the NHS Trust Federation, told Mr Dorrell at its annual conference in Birmingham that "never has so

much energy been expended to sort out so little money".

Most offers that have been made involved only an additional 0.75 per cent, according to trust-federation figures.

The Royal College of Nursing declared that "local pay has failed to deliver and not just for nurses".

Six months into the financial year, fewer than one in 10 trusts had settled.

Mr Abberley said that local pay had produced "the worst of all possible worlds - demoralised, furious or mutinous staff, highly charged relations between purchasers and providers and a government sitting back and washing its hands of the problem".

Antonio Carluccio offers something to expand your perceptions of Italian cooking.

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RadioTimes

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Mum's the word as the well-adjusted child finds love and happiness ... away from peer pressure

How nursery breeds bad behaviour

The first year

GLENDIA COOPER

Babies who spend long periods in day-care nurseries are more likely to behave badly than those who stay at home with mother. They are also less likely to make friends, according to research.

It has traditionally been thought that children who have early experience of playing with their peers find it easier to adapt to social situations.

But Professor Dario Varin of the University of Milan, speaking at the British Psychological Society conference in Oxford said the children who attend day-care centres eight hours a day until the age of three tend to have less respect for the rights of other children.

He looked at 89 children between the ages of three and five in a nursery school, 36 of whom had attended day centres from their first or second years. The rest had been cared for at home.

Smacking legacy

Children who are smacked frequently are more likely to think that physical punishment is right, the British Psychological Society heard.

They were more likely to suggest more severe punishments for children who misbehave, suggesting that attitudes are repeated from generation to generation. However, children close to their parents or who come from a family where they are seen as an important member choose less violent forms of punishment, such as being sent to their room, said Dr Marjorie Smith, Deputy Director of Thomas Coram Research Unit, London.

The children were observed in the school by their teachers and parents were asked about their child's temperament. Tests were devised to look at the children's co-operation, socio-moral developments and any aggressive tendencies.

The children were videotaped carrying out various tasks such as completing a jigsaw puzzle with another child or taking a packet of sweets to share with their class-mates.

When the children were asked to solve puzzles Professor Varin looked at whether they gave or asked for help, whether they split tasks and whether they shared the room round the table.

Those who had had extensive day care tended to be more competitive, refused to help and often took the jigsaw piece away from the puzzle and refused to co-operate.

And when they were asked to take a packet of sweets from one section of the school to the other, day-care children were also less likely to be able to resist the temptation of opening the sweets and eating them rather than give them to their class-mates. Almost three times as many of the day-care group did this as the home-care group.

Contrary to our expectations the early group experience did not foster co-operative behaviour," said Professor Varin.

These results suggest that at least for some children an early and extended group experience does not ... foster socio-moral development even if the quality of group care is 'good enough'.

He called on governments to bring in measures promoting more flexible employment patterns so that children could be cared for at home by their parents in the early stages of their life, "a unique type of care which cannot be substituted by any education".



Changing times: A child holds hands with his parents. Studies reveal that if he spends long periods in day-care he is more likely to be badly behaved, and a split between his parents could make him feel more secure. Photograph: John Lawrence

The satisfying side of being home alone

Divorce

GLENDIA COOPER

Divorce and single parenthood can make a mother more confident and leave a child feeling more loved, according to new studies.

In the past, most research has focused on the negative impact of divorce on parent and child.

But the British Psychological Society heard yesterday that although single parent families may have more to cope with, mothers reported a sense of achievement and a feeling of doing a job well while their children experienced feelings of love and security.

Children of single parent families were also less likely to have stereotypical views of male and female roles. The results of the studies were presented at a symposium in Oxford.

While single parents tended to have tougher lives than their married counterparts, they tended to use such experiences in a more positive way.

Doctor Ann Woollett, of the University of East London, interviewed 35 families to find out what divorce actually felt like.

"We're not trying to suggest that divorce is good," said Dr Woollett. "It is quite clear that children can suffer problems because of divorce." But she added that such an experience could galvanise women into taking charge of their lives.

"When the marriage breaks down the mother is thrown into doing all sorts of things that are unfamiliar," she said. "There are new areas, new decisions and she is forced to cope."

Small events such as getting the car repaired at a garage, choosing the child's school and taking the child out for the day can leave mothers with a sense

of achievement. "These things may sound trivial, but mothers can be filled with a sense of self-confidence."

As for the children, they often talked about a sense of stability. "Children reported a feeling of love focused on them," added Dr Woollett. "During the divorce, the parents may feel they have neglected the child with all the trauma. When the divorce is over, they begin to try to make up for that."

"The child may also be proud of how the mother is doing and how they are doing, they are proud to have taken up responsibilities."

Dr Woollett said the most satisfactory situation was when the child maintained good communication with the parent - usually the father - who lived away from home.

But Dr Charlie Lewis, of Lancaster University, whose research found that single parents experienced more negative and positive life events than their married peers, urged caution. "We must be careful about thinking about these positive changes," he said. "We are always comparing a positive change against the negative feeling that went before. The positive is only relative."

Dr Morag Smith, of Dundee University, interviewed 49 children and their mothers, half of whom were married and half single.

She found that children from single parent families were less rigid in their opinion of what were "girls toys" and what were "boys toys".

The National Council for One Parent Families welcomed the findings. "The research is a recognition of the positive strength and achievements of mothers who are raising their children and creating a family life against all the odds," said Karin Pappenheim, its director.

The early stars shine for longest

Starting school

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Children who are the stars of the reception class are still ahead when they take GCSE, according to a paper to be published today. The paper, from London University's Institute of Education, shows that children's first teachers affect them throughout their school career.

It reveals that those who do not settle in quickly and happily are four times less likely to be reading by the end of the year, regardless of their knowledge of reading when they started school.

The findings are based on an investigation by Dr Jeni Riley, the institute's Head of Primary Education, who looked at research evidence, including a study of her own, on the importance of the first year at school.

Her paper, being given at the British Educational Research



Seat of knowledge: The start is crucial (Christopher Jones)

Association at Lancaster University, examined studies of pupils' progress from the age of five to 16.

The paper says that those who make the most progress in their first year remain the highest achievers at the ages of seven and 11 and go on to get the best GCSE results.

Dr Riley rejects the claim

that anyone can teach a five-year-old and says such pupils need highly trained teachers with a good knowledge of literacy and numeracy.

Three years ago, John Patten, the former Secretary of State for Education, backed proposals for a "mums' army" to teach young children but the plans were later dropped. Dr Riley found that

the children with the most experienced teachers made most progress during their first year.

Because children starting school already have a rich but idiosyncratic fund of knowledge, she says, it is vital for reception-class teachers to assess carefully the needs of each. Some five-year-olds are at the level of three-year-olds, while others have started to read. Valuable time is wasted if teachers are too busy or harassed to assess them.

Previous research has shown that class size makes a difference to the progress of children aged between five and seven. Dr Riley argues that small classes are particularly important in reception classes.

"An early successful start can be made by capitalising on young children's knowledge acquired prior to school and this seems to underpin and advantage pupils for all that is to come," she says.

"It is crucial not to waste this early, incidental learning, so that children are not confused by

inappropriate teaching experiences, or worse still, alienated by them."

Another study, of 1,400 schools, to be presented at the conference tomorrow, shows that traditional methods of teaching reading may be more common than is often thought.

The research from Exeter University, part of a two-year project funded by the Lever Hulse Trust, shows that 99 per cent of schools use reading schemes rather than "real books" which may include any appropriate book.

Though 90 per cent of schools said they used a mixture of methods to teach reading, the most-mentioned method was phonics, which involves the sounding of words and which is favoured by traditionalists. Ninety per cent of schools send home lists of spellings for children to learn and two-thirds of junior schools are using standardised reading tests as well as the Government's National Curriculum tests.

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Muddy mess: Children clearing duckweed from Kew Pond in west London as part of a campaign by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to build thousands of new ponds in Britain. Kew Pond is being transformed into a habitat for wildlife
Photograph: Tom Pilsten

British Association for the Advancement of Science

Coming soon: the refrigerator with evil intent

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

The fridge of the future will be an intelligent machine able to decide for itself what food its owner needs, and to order it from a supermarket. But it might also decide that humans are troublesome extras that interfere with its efficient operation, and try to kill them.

The warning came yesterday from Roland Burns of the University of Plymouth, who said that society was moving "inevitably" towards a world controlled by intelligent machines. "The question is, if these systems are going to exist, what level of control are

we going to give them, and what authority?" he told the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Birmingham.

An ever growing range of consumer products, including cars, washing machines, televisions, cameras and telephones are now controlled by microchips. Though few of those items could communicate with each other now, the next generation of industrial and domestic machinery would include more "intelligence" than ever, Professor Burns said.

"For instance, when you're putting food into the fridge you might swipe it past a bar code reader so your system will know what's in the house. Then you can imagine it being linked to your bank account, and to the rest of the house, so it could do everything on your behalf - pay bills, order food and so on."

However, Professor Burns believes that such scenarios contain hidden dangers. "I think most people would be happy to let machines make decisions for them," he said. "But the fridge might decide that if it locks all the doors in the house and gets rid of you then it could really get the household operating efficiently."

Bugs in the programs and unpredictable effects from com-

puter viruses could be devastating, he said. Nor was it clear whether such systems could be designed so that they would never harm a human, either on purpose or by accident. It would however be almost impossible to avoid a future in which intelligent machines had a central role.

The rapid development of these systems by the military could lead to strange developments. The cruise missile, which could follow contours of terrain over hundreds of miles, used Seventies technology. "There are extremely intelligent machines in the military environment today," Professor Burns said.

In the future, battles might be fought between warring intelligent machines, with humans as by-standers. "You could have a war fought over the Internet," he said. Already, military equipment such as the European Fighter Aircraft was uncontrollable by humans - it was inherently unstable and microprocessors were essential for it to stay in the air.

"In the next decade, we are going to see a growth of technology that we have never seen before," Professor Burns said. "I'm just trying to raise a warning flag, so we are aware of what could potentially happen."

The butterfly's big mistake - relying on man

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Environment Correspondent

Half of Britain's butterfly species are "addicted to human-created habitats", the science festival was told.

They were utterly dependent for their survival on people continuing to look after the countryside in traditional ways, Dr James Mallet of University College, London, said.

Unfortunately for them those traditional practices had ceased across much of the country, to be replaced by intensive mod-

ern agriculture. That had caused a few to become extinct in Britain and left some others on the brink of disappearing.

Heavily grazed chalk downlands were crucial for several species, such as the large blue and silver-spotted skipper, he told the festival. But that habitat had dwindled drastically this century. Grazing had stopped on many of the steeper hillsides, with farmers preferring to graze their stock on flatter, more easily managed pastures where chemical fertilisers were used.

The rabbit, also introduced to the British Isles by man about 1,000 years ago, had hit its population severely hit by myxomatosis, Dr Mallet said.

That, and the abandonment of sheep- and cattle-grazing, had allowed the grass to grow tall, scrub to invade and the butterflies to disappear.

Traditional coppicing of woodlands, in which the wood is cut down to near the base of the trunk every dozen years, had also ended across much of the country. As a result the trees had grown taller, the canopy had closed and the woods were shadier and cooler through spring to autumn, Dr Mallet added.

Several other rare species, including some of the fritillary butterflies, depended on coppicing.

The changes had benefited a few species, such as the Lulworth skipper which prefers longer grass and has spread out from a small part of Dorset, and the speckled wood, which prefers closed-canopy woodlands to coppice.

But five species were known to have become extinct in Britain since the middle of the last century, and others that were once common were now very rare. There were now believed to be 56 resident butterfly species.

Dr Mallet has been looking for evidence of a decline in the genetic diversity of rare butterfly populations caused by them becoming isolated and increasingly inbred. But that appeared to have happened to only a small extent so far.

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Britain's 1.5 million problem punters

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

An estimated 1.5 million people in Britain are "problem gamblers". Including pathological punters and teenagers obsessed with fruit machines, according to a report published yesterday.

The findings suggest that Government proposals to relax betting laws and increase the number of casinos, combined with the success of the National Lottery, will lead to an increase in gambling problems and a rise in crime.

The most common crimes associated with gambling are fraud, embezzlement, forgery and theft. "The pattern of offending is similar to that associated with illegal drug addiction," says the Home Office-commissioned study.

Young people, especially men, are particularly at risk from gambling addiction, with around five to six per cent suffering problems, mainly through playing slot machines.

Gamblers Anonymous yesterday warned of "an explosion" in problem gambling over the next few years, fuelled by the National Lottery and scratch cards and an increase in the number of available casinos.

Earlier this year, the Home Office proposed allowing new casinos in 13 towns, permitting advertising for the first time, allowing late night drinking and higher stakes and pay-outs on machines. It has been examining the issue since February and is due to make an announcement on the issue in the next few months.

In 1994, there were 119 casinos in the UK with an average nightly attendance of 30,000 people who spent £2.23m. The 900 bingo clubs attract 500,000 each day with £81m at stake. But the new study, by experts from Glasgow and Plymouth

universities, suggests there will be serious social consequences of expanding the current system.

The report concludes that any expansion in gambling facilities leads to an increase in problem gambling. "Studies also show that increased accessibility of gambling has led to an increase in crime, including both organised crime within casinos and crime reported to by problem gamblers to fund their habit," it says.

Male and female problem gamblers appear to choose different types of games, according to the research. Men opt for blackjack and roulette while women prefer bingo, lotteries and gambling machines. Slot machines are the first choice for the young.

The report warns of the pressure gambling puts on health services and help groups. "Prevention programmes barely exist in the UK," say the authors. US studies show that gamblers may suffer a range of physical, psychosomatic and psychological disturbances and have high suicide rates, they add.

The study says a crude estimate based on figures from other countries suggests about 3.27 per cent of the adult population in Britain - about 1.5 million people - experience gambling problems.

A spokesman for Gamblers Anonymous said: "It is difficult to get a true picture of the problem because so many people try and hide their gambling addiction and only seek help in desperation when the bailiffs are at their door."

"As a group, we are not against gambling because it's a business, but we are against high-profile gambling such as the National Lottery and scratch cards because it can encourage people to become compulsive gamblers."



Survivor: Gaynor Madgwick with her daughter Cassie, aged nine, in the cemetery above Aberfan village where 144 people died in the 1966 disaster Photograph: Rob Stratton

After 30 years trapped in the nightmare of Aberfan, the healing process has begun

TONY HEATH

The struggle to come to terms with the Aberfan disaster has taken Gaynor Madgwick 30 years. She was eight when the massive tip of coal waste towering over the South Wales village collapsed. Pantglas School was buried under thousands of tons of evil-smelling black slurry. It was a scene from Dante's *Inferno* as hundreds of rescuers clawed away at the detritus of

a century's mining. Gaynor was trapped with severe leg and hip injuries and she still recalls: "It was a horrible nightmare. Bodies lay crushed and buried. I was too dazed to scream or do anything."

Her grandfather was among the rescuers who eventually found her.

Her brother Carl, aged seven, and sister Marilyn, 10, died - as did another 114 children and 28 adults.

It has been a long march

back. But yesterday the community centre at Aberfan, a typical valleys' village five miles from Merthyr Tydfil, was packed for the launch of her book *Struggling Out Of The Darkness* and plans for ceremonies to mark the 30th anniversary of the tragedy, which falls on 21 October, were discussed.

The book is, in the truest sense, a story of courage. After months spent in hospital after the disaster and attempts to

block out memories of the disaster Ms Madgwick began to write in her early teens. The manuscript languished for nearly 20 years. Then five years ago she steered herself to complete the task.

The divorced mother of three children - James 17, Ben 15 and Cassandra nine - Gaynor, slim and fair-haired, typifies the resilience of a community still scarred by the events of 30 years ago.

"I hope the book will help

others survivors, like the people of Dunblane. It takes a long, long time to get the fears and frustrations out of the system. Writing the book was my way of healing," she said.

She regularly visits the hillside cemetery where rows of arched marble headstones stand sentinel over the village, a stark reminder of the price paid for keeping a nation warm and the wheels of industry turning.

Merthyr Vale colliery, the

pit around which Aberfan was built, closed six years ago with the loss of 400 jobs. The village is bypassed well out of sight of motorists speeding to the honeypot that is Cardiff. A few miles up the valley a factory is being built by a Korean manufacturer of earth moving equipment.

Change may be in the air but the old verities of community and mutual help which inform *Struggling Out Of The Darkness* are fighting back.

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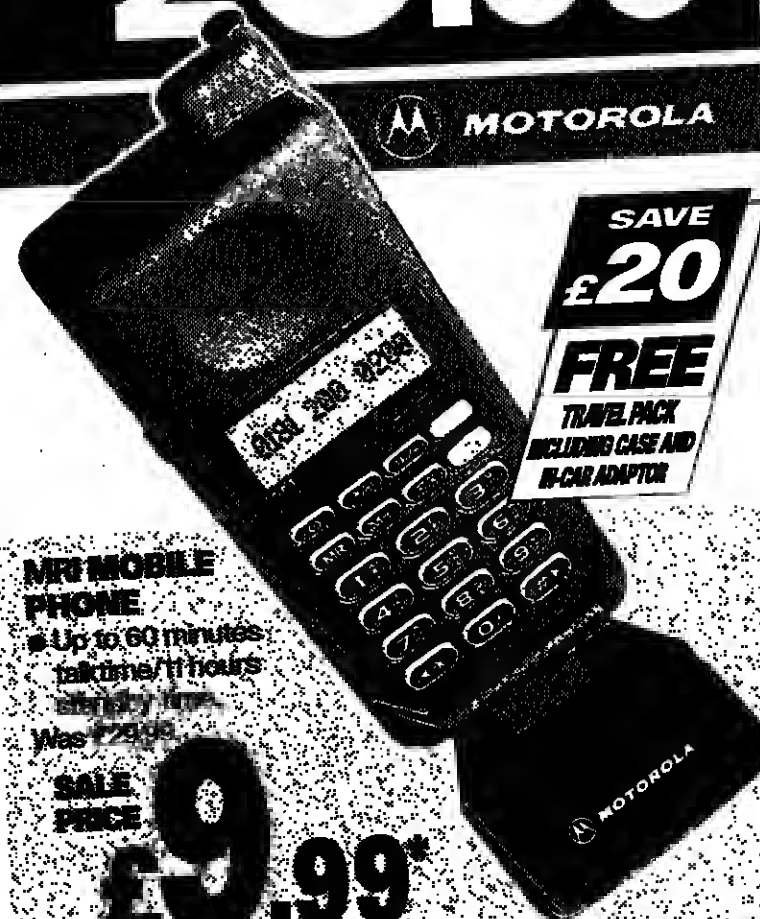


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Hackney council splits over inquiry

Labour Party claims rebels exploited row over alleged abuse cover-up

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

An independent inquiry into allegations of a cover-up of sexual abuse in Hackney children's homes was ordered by a stormy council meeting early yesterday.

The issue has been seized on by rebel Labour councillors who this week set up their own party, depriving the official Labour Party of its majority in the north-east London borough.

The special council meeting finally voted at 1am yesterday to set up an inquiry into why Mark Trotter, a local Labour activist, was employed as a care worker at a children's home in Hackney.

Trotter died of an Aids-related illness last year, just before the police told Hackney council

who chaired the social services committee and who had known about the Trotter allegations since August last year, are both rebels. Gerry Ross, social services chairman from last December to June this year, is the leader of Hackney New Labour.

A Labour spokesman insisted that the council leadership decided to set up an independent inquiry as soon as the allegations were made known to the whole council two months ago.

And it was claimed that Cynthia Thomas O'Garra, an elderly councillor with cataracts, was induced to sign a letter announcing that she was joining the rebels after being told that it was demanding an independent inquiry into the Trotter charges. She later withdrew it.

The political effects of this week's defection by the Labour rebels are likely to be surprisingly limited. Despite claims by Hackney New Labour to have "forged links with" the 10 Liberal Democrats and eight Conservatives on the council, it seems that the opposition parties will have nothing to do with the break-aways.

The official Labour Party, led by John McCafferty, seems set to go on running the council. Mr McCafferty was effectively re-imposed by the national Labour Party earlier this week, having been deposed as leader last year.

Local government in Hackney has been a hideous embarrassment to democracy and a betrayal of the residents of the deprived London borough for three decades.

Against a background of the tortured politics of the Hackney Labour Party, fraud and incompetence have flourished.

Controversy in recent years has focused on the role of Bernard Crofton, the "fraud-busting" housing chief portrayed equally forcefully as part of Hackney's problem and as part of its salvation.

One former Labour activist in Hackney must be hugely relieved that he failed to become a councillor. In 1982 he put himself forward to be a Labour candidate, but was not selected. Twelve years later, Tony Blair was leader of the Labour Party. Now he might have to clean up the mess in government.

'This has been a double blow for Tony Blair. He and his cronies are backing the wrong group'

if they had been poised to prosecute him for sexually abusing five boys in 1980-81 when he lived in Merseyside.

A Labour spokesman told *The Independent* the issue had been exploited as part of the "foulest sort of political game" by the rebel councillors, who were looking for an excuse to set up a rival party in Hackney.

But Philip Pearson, one of the 17 rebels who call themselves the Hackney New Labour Group, said: "This has been a double blow for Tony Blair. He and his cronies on the [Labour] National Executive are backing the wrong Labour group in Hackney."

The rebels, some of whom had already been disciplined by the National Executive for operating a "party within a party" called the Manifesto Group, accused the council leadership of delay in looking into the Trotter affair, and of trying to avoid a full independent inquiry.

The official Labour Party fought back yesterday. It pointed out that the two councillors

Trials dogged by the growing flock of Saturday amateurs



No bar on outsiders: a competitor at the International Sheepdog Trials at Chatsworth, Derbyshire, yesterday

Photograph: John Houlihan

A sharp whistle split the early morning air and the first run of the International Sheepdog Trials was under way.

Eric Barfoot, 50, a fisheries officer from County Tyrone, stood with his dog Man on the Chatsworth estate in Derbyshire ready to compete. He is among a growing number of Saturday trialists in the sport who have never worked on a farm. The trend has angered some shepherds.

"There is resentment, but I compete because I love it," he said. "I know I will never be able to read sheep the way a full-time shepherd does but I get pleasure from working with a dog and just being outside."

Nearby was Mike Northwood, 38, a full-time shepherd. "There are more Saturday trialists than ever before," he said. "They can do it because they've got money to buy good dogs at something like £1,500 a time. I don't begrudge them the pleasure but I don't think they should compete with full-time shepherds."

Philip Hendry, secretary of the International Sheepdog Society, said of the sport's growing popularity: "It is the attraction of the unique partnership between man or woman and a working dog. The public just love it."

Bureaucracy nets another VICTIM



In our quest to point out the worst excesses of meddling mediocrity, may we relay this biblical tale. Centuries ago there was a freshwater fish from Galilee who, after literally coughing up a coin or two for St. Peter to pay some Roman bureaucrats, was rewarded with the name St. Peter's fish.

Fast forward to 1996 and in their earnest desire to regulate just about everything, today's bureaucrats have ruled that the poor fish has now to be 'de-canonised' and renamed Tilapia, its Roman name.

As they clearly point out, 'If there is a name prescribed by law for a food, that is to say if a particular name is required to be used for the food, that name shall be used for the food'.

Despite this clarity they then ruled that a seawater fish, that most of us call John Dory, can now be called St. Peter. Confused? So too will be anyone asking for St. Peter's fish down at Tesco.

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DAILY POEM

Don't Ask

By Brian Patten

Tell me, love, what were you thinking of?

I was thinking how there are certain times of the night when the dead wipe the frost from their souls and weep.

Of nothing simpler?

Of a courtyard I once visited, and of a woman standing beside a statue covered in snow.

Of no one else? No one nearer?

She was so beautiful. Had she been made of nettles I'd have wanted her.

Why think of her now, at this moment?

Because I am still mixing the ashes of the dead and of dead obsessions.

Why answer me like this?

Because I am bankrupt of small comforts, of small deceptions. Because we two are new, and without history. And treasonous memory sleeps in so many beds.

Brian Patten, one of the "Liverpool Poets", along with Adrian Henri and Roger McGough, was born in that city in 1946. He has published eight collections of poetry and numerous books for children. Translated into Italian, Spanish, German and Polish, Patten is one of the few British poets with a European readership, and a readership that crosses the Latin/Germanic cultural divide. Flamingo publish his latest collection *Armada* next week (£5.99). It is quite wonderful.

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TUC Congress: Extending maximum week to transport workers and call for new employment rights draws fire from main parties

EU work plan prompts Tory backlash

BARRIE CLEMENT and JOHN RENTOUL

European plans to extend the maximum 48-hour week to new groups of workers, including doctors and transport workers, were welcomed by the TUC yesterday, but provoked a furious reaction from Conservative Euro-sceptics.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said he would submit evidence to Brussels that pilots, seafarers and professional drivers who are overworked pose a serious danger to safety.

But Sir Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend East, warned yesterday that the plans confirmed his "nightmare" that the Government would be powerless to resist the imposition of the entire Social Chapter by the back door.

"The Government know what the score is. I just wish that they would accept there is a crisis here and it is a desperately serious crisis," he said.

William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, argued for greater flexibility rather than further European regulation of the labour market in a speech in the City.

He said it would be "crazy" to deny that people had feelings of job insecurity, but said: "Things are not as pessimistic as they seem."

About half the people now entering temporary work find more permanent jobs within a year, he said, and "Britain is much better at moving people up from the bottom pay levels to higher pay levels."

Britain was a much more upwardly mobile society, more like America than other European countries, he said.

The Independent revealed yesterday that the European Commission is drawing up proposals to extend its maximum 48-hour week rule to people who usually work long hours but are excluded from the existing European law.

A spokeswoman for the employment commissioner, Padraig Flynn, told BBC radio: "We have said we need to look again at these sectors because there is no technical justification for the exclusion of a number of these sectors and activities from the directive."

Mr Monks welcomed the proposal which would guarantee proper rest breaks and ben-

efit more than half a million British transport workers.

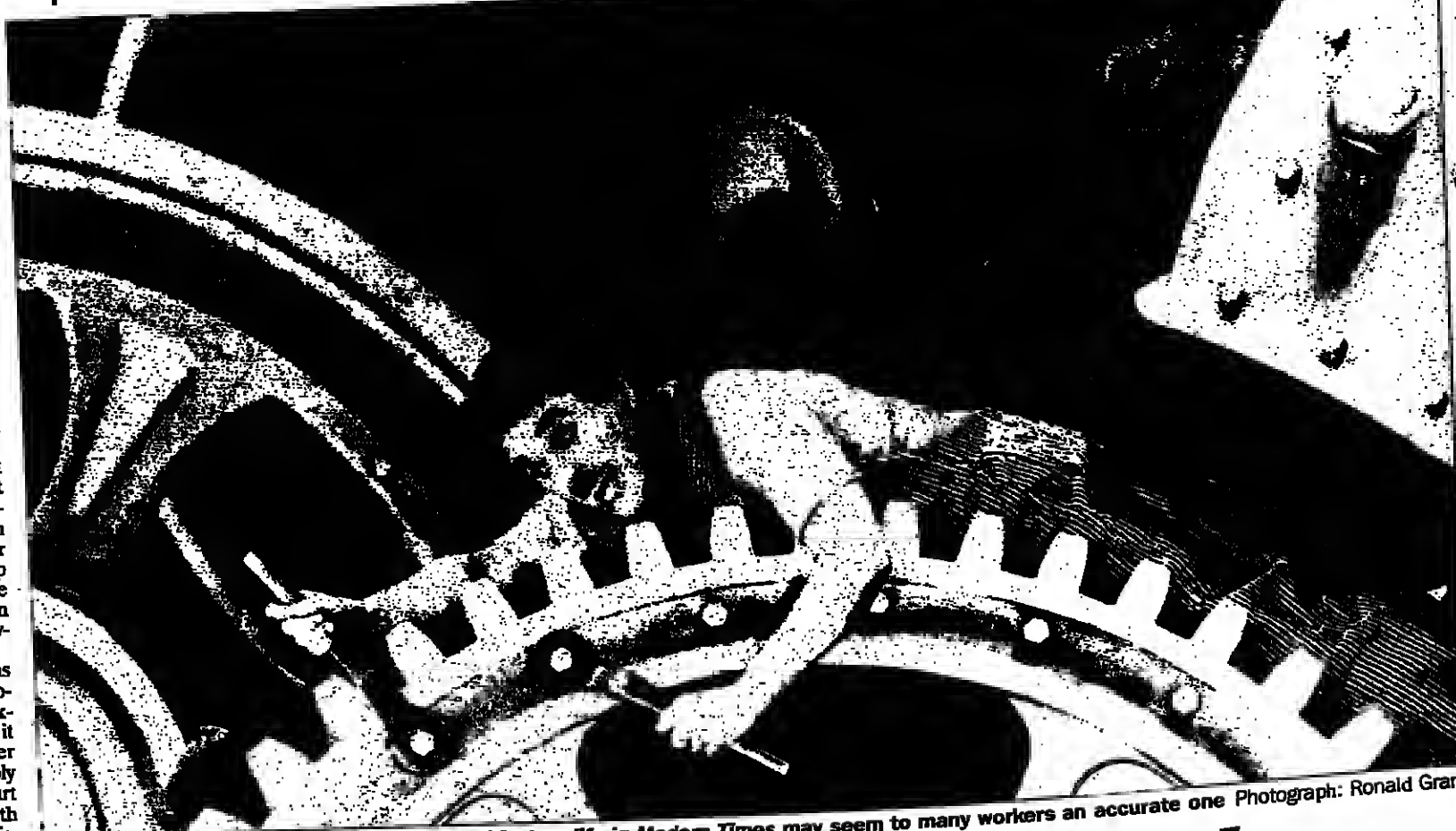
The TUC believes transport workers would stand to benefit most from legal limits to working time. The average British lorry driver works a 62-hour week, flight crews can work up to 60 hours a week and case studies include a ship's captain who worked 98 hours over a seven-day period.

But the Government has challenged the existing European law restricting the working week on the grounds that it should be a Social Chapter measure which would not apply in Britain. The European Court is expected to rule next month that the law is a health and safety measure which applies in all member countries under the single market treaty provisions.

Health and safety measures can be introduced by majority votes, which means they can be imposed against the wishes of the British government.

Labour is pledged to sign up to the Social Chapter, strongly supported by the trade unions, which regard Europe as an important guarantor of employees' rights and public safety.

Leading article, page 17



Cog in the machine: Charlie Chaplin's view of factory life in *Modern Times* may seem to many workers an accurate one Photograph: Ronald Grant

Rift with Blair becomes a chasm

BARRIE CLEMENT

New Labour's rift with the unions widened yesterday when the TUC urged it to toughen proposals on employment law to allow unlimited secondary action and give workers full rights

from "day one". The TUC backed a resolution urging Labour to take reforms much further, adding to the party's embarrassment.

Alan Johnson, leader of the postal workers involved in the Royal Mail dispute, attacked

Tony Blair's suggestion that his union should ballot on the latest peace offer.

"The question of if and when or how many times we ballot is a matter for us as free independent trade unions, not a matter for the state."

But the conference overwhelmingly defeated a proposition by Mr Johnson calling for workers to be allowed to strike without a vote when "urgent defensive action" was required.

Proposing the resolution which called for a more radical Labour approach, Tony Dubbins, the print workers' leader, denounced its key proposals on union recognition as "non-sense". Plans for ballots among

workers before management was obliged to deal with unions were "cumbersome, bureaucratic and unworkable".

Recognition should be "automatic" when a union could prove more than half the workforce were members.

The proposition also demanded that a Blair cabinet grant full rights to workers on the first day of their employment, as promised by John Smith, the Labour leader who died in 1994. Under Mr Blair the party has moved away from the pledge, pointing out that litigation under European law would probably reduce the qualifying period from the present two years to one.

Mr Dubbins, secretary of the GPMU union, said a proposal giving strikers a right to claim unfair dismissal if they were sacked during lawful industrial action "invited victimisation".

He said action should be brought into line with International Labour Organisation conventions, which derive from the United Nations Charter. The ILO standards allow for few restrictions on solidarity action. The print union leader welcomed Labour's commitments in its document "Building Prosperity, Flexibility, Efficiency and Fairness at Work", but said it "fell considerably short" of union aspirations.

Six more networks set to join rail strike

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Industrial unrest on the rail network spread after guards and catering staff at another six train operators voted to walk out.

In the wake of the ballot results announced yesterday, the RMT transport union called 24-hour strikes on Friday 20 September and Monday 23 September.

A further four companies were already due to walk out on 23 September, raising the prospect of 10 separate stoppages that day. The action will involve 6,000 employees and cause considerable disruption in much of the rail system.

The networks affected include the flagship Gatwick Express line, Cardiff Railways, South West Trains, InterCity West Coast, South West Trains, Anglia, and overnight staff at ScotRail who work on InterCity sleepers.

Employers at Thames Trains and a solitary RMT member

who works on the Island Line on the Isle of Wight voted against action.

The four lines where guards and catering staff had already opted to walk out are: Regional Railways North East, North West Regional Railways, and South Wales and the West, and guards at ScotRail, who work in a division separate from sleeper staff.

Ballot results are to be announced on 20 September at South Central, South Eastern and Central Trains.

The disputes involve claims for retraining breaks and a demand that RMT members be paid for previous productivity improvements.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, said that Labour Party plans to curb industrial action at public services would not have helped to avoid the disruption. He said their proposals had been drawn up without reference to those who had experience in industrial relations.

He revealed that the votes to strike have varied from 63 per cent at Anglia to 90 per cent at the Cardiff railway company.

Mr Knapp said RMT members were claiming an 11 per cent pay increase for past productivity, but some companies had settled by offering employees an extra £10, which amounted to considerably less than the claim.

He estimated that it would cost the industry just £8m to settle the dispute, around half a per cent of its pay bill. He said the votes displayed both the "disquiet and determination" among staff. The union had been prepared to be flexible but the British Rail Board was influencing management and preventing settlements.

Management sources said that some companies believed they were close to deals, and were surprised that their employees had voted to take action.

The source calculated that up to half the staff in the companies did not belong to the RMT.

Watford crash blamed on train driver and track

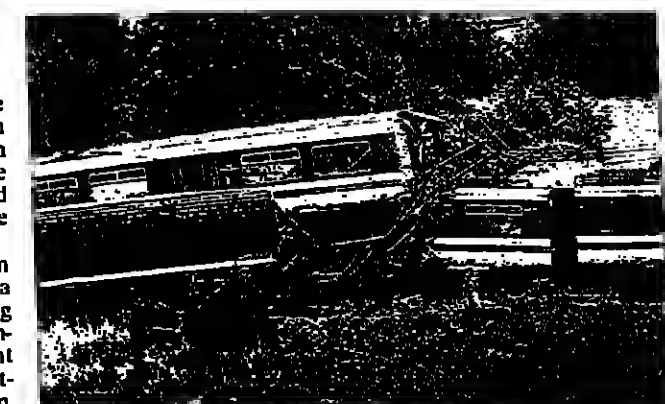
CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The inquiry by Railtrack into the Watford train accident in which a woman was killed last month blames the driver of one of the trains, who went through a red light, and the layout of the track.

The investigation has been hampered by the absence of a usable tape in the recording device on the northbound commuter service which went through a red light before hitting an empty southbound train. The tape was found by the investigators to be blank because of faulty maintenance.

The lack of the tape, which would have recorded data on speed, brakes and signals, is an embarrassment to the rail industry as the recorders' installation was a key recommendation of the 1988 Clapham rail disaster and this was the first crash in which it would have provided definitive evidence.

One theory is that the train driver suffered a blackout, and only became aware of a problem when he saw the red light. He slammed on the brakes but because there is a shorter than usual distance between the signal and the points which it is



Wrecked carriages at Watford Photograph: Cherry Dale

supposed to protect, he collided with the up train.

Publication of the report, by safety consultant David Maidment who retired from Rail-track last year, has been postponed, possibly until the end of the month, while Rail-track considers its response.

Mr Maidment's report will say that the decision in 1992 to create the short overlap after the signal - 160 yards instead of 200 - was made because of technical difficulties, as the signal is so near a bend, rather than to save the £200,000 cost of moving ganties. The rail unions will argue that it was primarily the cost which led to the decision.

The report is thought to be highly critical of the fact that drivers were not informed of the 60mph speed limit imposed as a result of the short overlap.

The accident would have been prevented by the installation of Automatic Train Protection, another recommendation of the Hidden inquiry. However, British Rail and the Government refused to install it because the £400m cost was not thought to have been worthwhile as it would only have saved around 30 lives over the lifetime of the system and it was felt the money would be better spent on more cost-effective safety measures.

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Parties vie for the support of young voters

Labour offers cut-price membership for under-21s and Tory luminaries hold teach-in for youth activists

CHRIS BLACKHURST and CLARE GARNER

Both the Labour and Conservative parties have woken up to the importance of wooing the next generation of voters and are launching campaigns to highlight their rival attractions to disenchanted youngsters.

As Labour yesterday unveiled its recruitment drive designed to boost membership among 18- to 21-year-olds, it emerged that the Tories are also planning a campaign which targets the young. Labour is offering a reduced membership fee of £1 to all under-21s joining the party for the first time. Billy Bragg, the socialist singer who formed the Eighties pop-politics movement, Red Wedge, in an effort to mobilise youngsters to vote for Neil Kinnock in the 1987 elections, feels New Labour is failing to "excite" young people. "Don't ask me why young people aren't voting for the Labour Party," he said. "The Labour Party isn't presenting anything to young people to get them excited."

The Tories' new drive to attract young first-time voters at the next General Election is codenamed First Time Voters.

Their approach will be revealed at the party conference in Bournemouth next month. It will feature advertisements aimed at the same crucial age group and a new magazine is also in the pipeline.

The idea is for the Tories to cling on to one of the most significant statistics to emerge from the last election, that according to an ICM survey, 40 per cent of 18- to 29-year-olds voted Tory.

Last weekend at Birmingham University more than 100 young Tory activists were taught campaigning techniques and communication skills by Alan Duncan MP, parliamentary private secretary to the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and fellow MPs Steve Norris and Peter Luff. Also speaking for the audience, drawn from Young Conservative branches and Tory student groups, was Harvey Thomas, the party's former communications director and General Election mastermind.

The Birmingham weekend and the presence of such party luminaries further underlines the importance Labour and the Tories are attaching to wooing the youth vote. They are not alone in trying to persuade his-

torically apathetic young people to become more political. At the end of this month the Ministry of Sound, the successful club in south London, will launch its own cinema advertising campaign aimed at making politics seem more relevant to young people and to make the older generation more aware of the issues that concern them.

The intention is not to persuade the young to vote a particular way but to make politics more understandable and to make them realise that they have a part to play in politics. Topics to be covered include homelessness, gay rights, racism and unemployment, and stem from surveys carried out at the Ministry asking the clubbers which issues most worry them.

Mark Rodell, managing director for the Ministry, said that out of 15 political issues these were the ones that young people were most worried about.

A Central Office spokesman confirmed the Conservatives were exploring new ways of winning the youth vote.

"There are several things we are doing which have yet to be revealed," she said. The aim was to better last time's 40 per cent figure, she added.



Billy Bragg: 'The Labour Party isn't presenting anything to young people to get them excited'

Photograph: Beddlyn Butcher/Rex Features

Generation with bigger worries

CLARE GARNER

For every youngster prepared to stop and chat about their political preferences on Commercial Road in east London yesterday, there were at least three who hurried by, mumbling: "Sorry, I can't help you. I'm not into politics."

Warsame Ali, 17, said he planned to vote Labour but could not spare the time to canvass for the party. "You've got to sort out your future before you get involved in politics. That's the first priority," he said. "I'm about to start a three-month training course and after that I might get a job so I haven't got enough time to hang around for the Labour Party." He has no illusions about Labour. "They promise a lot," he said. "They may do it. They may not."

Helen Wilkinsoo, a project director at the independent think-tank, Demos, believes that if Tony Blair wins the election but fails to deliver, Warsame will become just one of legions of first-time voters who will ditch politics once and for all.

"What might have seemed a reversal of fortunes in that foal young people were voting again might become the final nail in the coffin," she said. "A temporary upsurge in political awareness and interest could get knocked back if Blair doesn't

deliver what he promises." Ms Wilkinsoo believes Labour's drive to recruit youngsters will go down a treat with the generation for whom "politics has become a dirty word". Given that 43 per cent of under-25-year-olds eligible to vote in the last election chose not to, compared to 31 per cent in 1987, all parties should be "investing in the next generation".

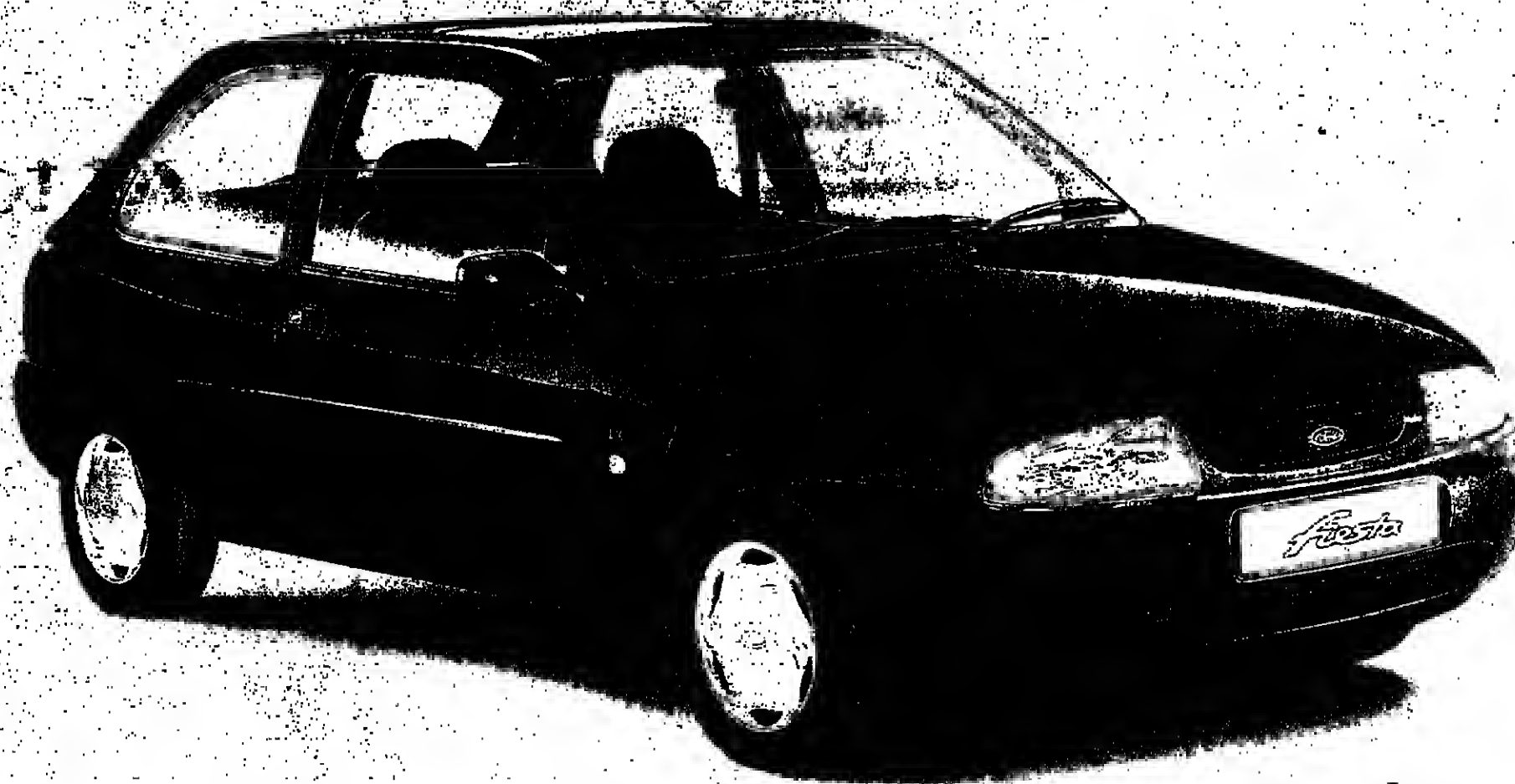
"People do respond to a bit of flattery, the feeling that someone is out to woo them in some form," she said. "There will be a lot of young people who are cynical but nevertheless there will be a lot who will respond. That's positive, not just for the Labour Party, but for politics and democracy generally."

Josie Harper, 15, said she would support Labour when she was old enough to vote but had no intention of joining the party. "It's not my type of thing," she said. Neither could she imagine any of her friends in Labour-run Newham signing up. "Round my area the only thing that matters is being tough - being hard. They would think it makes them look a bit soft."

Unemployed Richard Martin, 19, who had just come from the benefits office, said he would take a lot of convincing to vote for any party - let alone sign up as a member. "I don't think a vote will make any difference," he said.

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Gulf reprisal: Stealth bombers leave for Kuwait as Saddam continues sabre-rattling tactics and Clinton battles on home front

US strike against Iraq almost inevitable

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

A fresh and probably large-scale United States military strike against President Saddam Hussein became virtually inevitable yesterday, as high precision F-117 stealth bombers left the US for Kuwait, while Baghdad claimed to have fired three more missiles against American warplanes enforcing the "no-fly" zones in southern and northern Iraq.

The assertion by the Iraqi News agency was quickly rebutted by the Pentagon here which said it had no knowledge of any such attacks. But deeds and the ever-shriller rhetoric emanating from both Washington and Baghdad over the past 24 hours leave scant doubt that - whether or not the missiles were fired - it is now merely a question of when, not if, the US launches its reprisal.

Speaking to reporters yesterday William Perry, the De-



On the road: Kurdish refugees at the Iranian border after fleeing Sulaymaniyah when the city was taken over by KDP fighters, newly allied with Saddam Hussein. Photograph: AFP

fense Secretary, dismissed as "foolish" and "totally unacceptable" Iraq's charge that Kuwait had committed an act of war by permitting the eight F-117s to operate from its territory. The US, Mr Perry added, would take "all necessary and appropriate actions" to contain Iraq, and protect its pilots as they patrolled the no-fly zones.

Iraqi officials denounced the US behaviour as "state terrorism" which, they insisted, would only isolate Washington in the world community. "The aggressive Americans and their allies who have pursued the path of evil will not reap but further humiliation and disappointment," a statement said.

Mr Perry's remarks followed his warning on Wednesday that the response to President Saddam's latest "provocations" would be "disproportionate", implying that the forthcoming retaliation would not be confined to the air defence installations in the south, which

President Saddam is now said to be rebuilding after the damage inflicted by the last week's two rounds of cruise missile attacks.

Speaking shortly afterwards during a campaign swing through Arizona, President Bill Clinton emphasised that talk of war "should not spiral out of hand". Even so, most students of US policy towards Iraq believe that he has no choice but to respond, and should do so vigorously.

According to many analysts, the despatch of the F-117s - which carried out precision bombing of strategic targets in the first hours of the 1991 Gulf war - signifies that the Pentagon envisages strikes at key Iraqi installations, perhaps in Baghdad itself, and perhaps in pursuit of President Saddam.

Among possible targets listed by a Gulf-region specialist, Anthony Cordesman, in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday, were command bunkers, the Iraqi air force on the ground, or suspected sites of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons programmes. "I would not put Baghdad off limits," said the

Republican Senator Richard Lugar, one of the most respected Congressional voices on foreign affairs.

For campaign reasons too, Mr Clinton is under pressure to strike back hard. Republicans, and in private Democrats, have criticised as over-optimistic his earlier assertion that the two waves of 44 cruise missiles had succeeded in suppressing President Saddam. Hesitation over would be seized upon by his opponents as sign of damage to US foreign policy credibility, and proof of Mr Clinton's ill-suitedness to be commander-in-chief.

Judge accused of cover up in Cools murder case

SARAH HELM
Brussels

Melchior Wathelet, the Belgian judge at the European Court of Justice, was yesterday accused of being part of a cover up in Belgium's escalating corruption and murder scandal.

The family of the former deputy prime minister, Andre Cools, shot dead in 1991, called on prosecutors to lift the immunity of Mr Wathelet, who was Belgian minister of justice from 1988-1995.

The family accused Mr

Wathelet, a member of the Christian Socialist Party (PSC), and formerly a prominent politician in the Walloon region, of impeding the course of justice during the inquiries which followed Cools's killing. The family are furious that several suspects first identified in relation to the killing in 1992 were arrested only at the weekend.

No evidence was produced to justify the allegations against Mr Wathelet, which come in an atmosphere of widespread public suspicion against all figures in Belgian politics.

As the scandal continued to produce stunning revelations, it emerged separately yesterday that new evidence had been given to the authorities suggesting that the Cools killing may have been carried out by Sicilian Mafia hitmen, as long suspected. Belgian television reported that the prosecutors now have the names of the two killers, who are said to be Tunisian in origin, with Sicilian ties. The identities of the men, who have not been arrested, came to light during a raid by tax authorities on a Belgian house.

Le Soir reported that the authorities now have confirmation that the killers were recruited in Camicani, in Sicily. According to the newspaper the investigators had evidence to this effect, based on telephone tapping, dating back to 1991.

However, the Belgian authorities have yet to produce any explanation of the motive for the murder of Cools, who was prominent socialist politician, thought to have been gunned down on the order of political rivals. The authorities have also failed so far to confirm whether

any clear links exist between the Cools inquiry and the inquiry into the child sex ring of Marc Dutroux. Speculation of a link followed the revelation that some of the same individuals had been questioned in both inquiries.

The accusations by the Cools family against Mr Wathelet are not the first to be made against the Luxembourg judge since the Belgian crisis broke.

Following the discovery of child murder and sex abuse allegedly perpetrated by Marc Dutroux and his accomplices, Mr Wathelet was accused by the families of the dead girls of letting Dutroux walk free during his period as justice minister. It was Mr Wathelet who agreed to Dutroux's release when he had completed three years of a 13-year sentence for child rape.

The accusations made yesterday against Mr Wathelet are separate, and relate to the way he oversaw the inquiries into the Cools murder. However, given the connections already made between the two cases, Mr Wathelet's name is certain to come under the spotlight.

There was no reason to believe the prosecutors will order the lifting of Mr Wathelet's immunity in the immediate future. All Belgian ministers and former minister enjoy immunity from prosecution in relation to their political activities.

The process of lifting that immunity is lengthy and controversial. Willy Claes, Belgium's former Foreign Affairs minister, resigned last year from his post as secretary-general of Nato following demands that his immunity from prosecution be lifted in relation to the Agusta affair.



Wathelet: Calls for immunity to be lifted



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US unearths traces of its first Englishmen



Rain in Spain: Floods in Valencia where one person has been reported missing

By Robert Cornwell

It is the most evocative historical discovery here in recent years. Virginia archaeologists have found traces of the original fort built at Jamestown in 1607, as well as the remains of one of the first English settlers of America.

The wooden fort, covering around an acre on Jamestown Island, burned down in 1699 and historians had long presumed that all traces of it were washed away. Now a team from the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has found on a site abutting the James River the clear imprint of a corner bastion, and of a section of palisade wall erected inside the larger fort which replaced the one built in 1607.

Along with evidence of the structure, the two-year search

has uncovered a trove of period artefacts including a soldier's helmet and breastplate, English coins from 1560 to 1603, clay pipes, Indian jewellery, a book cover and a large number of arrowheads and musketballs.

Most dramatic of all was the recovery of a skeleton - of a white male, estimated to have been some 25 years of age, who probably died of a musket wound. A musketball was found embedded in one of his legs.

"This is like a time capsule," said Dr William Kelso, the association's director of archaeology. "Jamestown didn't become a modern city on the same site, which would have obliterated it."

The first permanent English settlement in North America, Jamestown was the capital of the colony of Virginia until 1699. Today it is part of a national historic park comprising the restored colonial town of

Williamsburg, a few miles inland, and Yorktown, where General Cornwallis came in grief in October 1781.

Today, the area is one of the most visited tourist sites in the country. But nearly 400 years ago Jamestown was a harsh and brutal land. Of the 104 people who survived the five-month Atlantic crossing and came ashore on 13 May, 1607, only 38 made it through the first eight months, the rest died of disease, starvation and skirmishes with the local Indians.

One at least of those skirmishes has passed from history into legend. Among the commanders of the original fort was Captain John Smith, who on a foray for food in December 1607 was captured by the local Indian chieftain Powhatan and, by Smith's account, was only saved from execution by Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas - a story very loosely related in last year's Walt Disney feature cartoon.

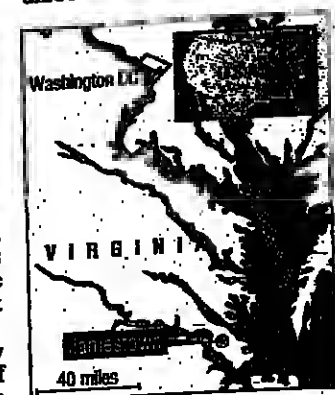
Indisputably, Jamestown was the cradle of English civilisation in the Americas. A first attempt at a permanent settlement, by Sir Walter Raleigh at Roanoke in what is now North Carolina, was abandoned in 1584. It was not until 1620 that the Mayflower put down anchor at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

At a ceremony yesterday George Allen, the Governor of Virginia, called Jamestown, site

of the first-elected assembly in North America, "the source spring of American democracy".

From the island, Dr Kelso said, "evolved our political institutions, our language, our commerce and much of our culture. No other American site predates Jamestown in historical significance."

And the archaeologists hope, they will soon find out far more. The present dig which began in 1994 is part of preparations for the fourth centennial of the Jamestown landing. Thus far, only \$700,000 (£450,000) has been spent on the \$17m project. By 2002, if all goes well, not only will any lingering doubts about the authenticity of the find have been banished, but the secrets of the later "James Towne" site next to the replacement fort will have been unlocked too.



SA struggles to please the big bad world

Rafsanjani's visit poses a foreign policy dilemma for Pretoria, reports Mary Braid

Johannesburg — South Africa was yesterday accused of yet another foreign policy gaffe on the first day of a state visit to the country by President Rafsanjani of Iran.

At best the visit is ill-timed. President Mandela honoured the leader of the country the United States accuses of sponsoring international terrorism with a 21-gun salute. Meanwhile Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president, is completing a high-profile, week-long visit to the US to woo investors.

At worst the visit, during which an oil storage deal worth 750m rand (£107m) a year to South Africa will be discussed, reflects a contradictory position. It also reinforces criticism that South Africa has no coherent foreign policy and that its foreign ministers possess little political acumen.

There has already been strong criticism of President Mandela's dogged determination to follow a "two China policy" - pursuing strong links with both China and Taiwan - and his stubborn loyalty to old allies such as Libya and Cuba. Critics say South Africa's international openness amounts to no more than a naive desire for the entire world to love it.

In diplomatic circles Alfred Nzo, the foreign minister, is held responsible for what many see as a poor foreign relations start. Among the many criticisms of the man nicknamed Nzozzzzzz are that he lacks experience and dynamism.

"We all sit around scratching our heads on the Libya question," said one diplomat. "Why this debt of loyalty to Libya when it actually supported the Pan-Africanist Congress?"

The foreign affairs department is taking the criticism - particularly from its own MPs - seriously. But at a two-day foreign affairs seminar this week officials said the row over Iran ignored the vast trade deficit between the two countries.

"We import R4bn of oil from Iran and only export R300m of goods to the country," one said. "It's a dramatic imbalance."

Offending the Americans had to be weighed against the national interest. Everything the new regime did came under the spotlight. Yet it was only one stop on a six-country tour by the Iranians. "We are not exactly supping at a table where no one else has sat."

Officials also complain that critics forget the conditions from which the new democracy emerged. Privately they admit a foreign policy weakness may be the country's attempt to be all things to all people. "Perhaps the real world is a lot tougher than we imagined."

While the new South Africa was criticised for its apparent re-

luctance to play a greater role in regional conflicts, there was too little recognition of the heavy legacy of the previous government, which had intentionally destabilised the region. The new South Africa had to be involved but avoid becoming a reviled "big brother".

Greg Mills, director of the South African Institute of International Affairs, has called the department's new discussion document on foreign policy "an ambitious and at times confusing wish list" and concluded that a combination of weak foreign policy and the high international standing of President Mandela has led to a situation where foreign profile masquerades as foreign policy.

Yesterday he was a little kinder. Critics, he said, were ig-



Alfred Nzo: Minister has been blamed for lapses

noring South Africa's regional successes, including its revitalisation of the 12-member South African Development Community, which had become no more than a talking shop.

They also forgot that in the past two years the foreign affairs department had seen a massive expansion abroad, from a mere 30 representatives during apartheid to the current 120.

There had been disasters, such as Mr Nzo's comments this year on the Lockerbie bombing, supportive of Libya. And a large political donation from Taiwan to the ANC in the run up to the elections.

If the deal with Iran goes ahead, despite the US's condemnation and criticism at home that it would contravene South Africa's commitment to human rights, it may actually reflect a growing maturity and independence.

Dr Mills says the country's foreign policy is still more rooted in idealism than most others, but decreasingly so. The current foreign policy calculation should be made on the basis of economic benefit against the level of US wrath. South Africa's priority has to be the prosperity of its people.

"Foreign policy is about making hard choices. I think the US is big enough to recognise that."

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Stitch in time: A 50-year-old unemployed man, who lives in a deserted warehouse in Ukraine, mends his clothes ready for the winter

Photograph: AFP

1,000 set to quit HK every week

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

A new survey suggests the exodus from Hong Kong will increase this year, with more than 1,000 people leaving each week, a level not seen since the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

The colony returns to Chinese sovereignty in less than 10 months. Previous predictions that the bulk of the exodus had tapered off now appear to have been over-optimistic. The survey, by Hong Kong's Institute of Human Resources Management, suggests emigration will rise by 23 per cent this year, with 53,000 people leaving. The gov-

ernment admits this figure might be correct but says its own estimates, based on information from consulates, suggest 46,000 may leave.

Whatever the outcome, no one denies that those leaving are drawn from the elite of skilled and entrepreneurial people who leave hard-to-fill gaps. There are already shortages of well-qualified managerial staff. The senior ranks of the civil service, where many officers have right of abode in Britain, look set to thin rapidly. Almost half the police officers above the rank of senior superintendent have told the force they intend leaving.

A report to be published soon by the Hong Kong Tran-

sition Project, which is monitoring attitudes to the transfer of sovereignty, indicates that 80 per cent of the population are prepared to make a definite commitment to staying in the territory.

The report states that about 7 per cent of the population already hold foreign passports and can leave at a moment's notice, while 5 per cent are applying. Thus it may be realistic to assume that about 12 per cent of the population are in a position to leave.

However, the project's research suggests a combination of factors, including right of overseas abode through family ties, could allow as much as 20

per cent of the population to go.

"This introduces a considerable element of instability to Hong Kong not present in other entities", said Michael DeGolyer, the project's director. The large numbers of those preparing to go become more alarming when added to the many who have been leaving every year for the better part of a decade.

The number peaked at 66,000 in 1992, three years after the Tiananmen Square massacre, reflecting the average two to three years it takes to prepare for emigration.

The government has been saying the outflow from Hong Kong is increasingly counter-

balanced by an inflow from those who established residency abroad and are returning to secure better-paid work. However, the Institute of Human Resources Management research suggests that although the number of those returning is rising significantly, only a fifth remained in the colony before going back to their new homes.

No one knows whether the British nationality scheme, which gave passports to 50,000 families, but allows them to remain in the colony indefinitely, will have its desired effect of "anchoring" key people to Hong Kong by providing a secure escape-hatch. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many of

those offered passports are taking them up immediately. The biggest brake on Hong Kong emigration prospects is likely to come from the countries which are targets for resettlement. Australia, for example, looks set to increase restrictions on certain types of immigrants.

Anti-Asian immigration sentiment is a big issue in the coming New Zealand election, which is likely to result in more restrictions, regardless of the outcome. Canada is cracking down on Hong Kong immigrants who do not fulfil citizenship requirements by spending enough time in the country, meaning many seeking a new home may have to return.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Armed bandits ambushed 25 Italian and American tourists in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park, opening fire on their vehicles and seriously injuring at least two, embassy officials said. About a dozen bandits staged the attack in last Sunday. No deaths were reported but casualties included two women, one American and one Italian, who were evacuated by air to hospital in neighbouring Kenya with fractures caused by bullets. *Reuters - Nairobi*

A Briton pleaded guilty to sexually abusing two boys in Albania, his lawyer told a Tirana court. Defendant Paul Thompson, 34, had originally denied the charges. Thompson, from Ashford, Kent, could face up to five years in jail if convicted. The divorced father of two was arrested on 25 August in a hotel in the Adriatic resort of Durrës, about 45km (30 miles) west of Tirana. *Reuters - Tirana*

Britain has welcomed an initial step by Fiji to scrap its racially-biased constitution and said it would like the South Pacific nation to return to the Commonwealth from which it was expelled in 1990. "We would like to see Fiji return. But this is not a decision which the UK alone can take," said the Foreign Office minister, Jeremy Hanley. *Reuters - Sydney*

United States investigators are considering blowing up an empty Boeing 747 to see if the wreckage would help them determine what caused the explosion that downed TWA Flight 800, the *Washington Post* reported. If investigators carry out the test, it would take place on the ground and the explosives most likely would be placed near the centre fuel tank of the aircraft, the newspaper said. *AP - Washington*

Hundreds of African and Asian immigrants occupied a Paris police office to demand residence permits for 350 of them. The protesters said they would leave the office as soon as they received official assurances that their demands would be negotiated. The protest happened not far from the Saint Bernard church where 300 Africans, 10 of them on a hunger strike, were held up for two months to demand residence permits until police evicted them in August. *Reuters - Paris*

The German government joined Turkey in attacking a Kurdish-language satellite television station which broadcasts from western Europe to the Middle East. A parliamentary written answer said British-based Med-TV was a "propaganda mouthpiece" of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which wants autonomy in south-east Turkey. Med-TV denies all links with the PKK and its guerrillas although members of the party participate in televised debates. *Reuters - Bonn*

A car bomb tore down part of a Hell's Angels compound close to a residential area west of Copenhagen. No one was injured, police said. Concern has been expressed in Denmark that recent attacks in the bikers' feud have been staged in populated areas. So far no one outside the rivaling bikers' groups has been injured. Hell's Angels, rivals Bandidos and supporting gangs have been waging low-level warfare for more than two years. *AP - Copenhagen*

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Bosnia elections: Unlikely coalition has fup at expense of the nationalists 'Black' alliance strikes a chord

EMMA DALY
Tuzla

This is the single-issue election to beat them all, a Bosnian campaign in which the only question is: are you one of us or one of them?

There are dozens of parties running, but only three count: the Muslim SDA, the Croat HDZ and the Serb SDS - or so the leaders of Bosnia's warring factions believe. A poster printed by the SDA, which led Bosnia's wartime government, says it all: "The Croats know what to do, the Serbs know what to do, what about YOU?"

Contrary to the beliefs of those who wrote the Dayton peace plan, there are Bosnian citizens who choose not to vote along ethnic lines and they turn to the United List, a coalition of five opposition parties with a black humour that helped the big cities survive siege.

Their slogan is "We managed to unite ourselves and we will unite Bosnia." That union is an achievement, given that the coalition includes two leftist parties, one from the centre, and two from the right, and involves Serbs, Muslims and Croats. Their symbol is an alarm clock, bands stuck at 11.59. "We wanted to show people that it is the last chance



Attention: Second World War veterans listen to speeches at a Serb Radical Party rally in Bijeljina Photograph: AP

to vote for a better future," said Muhamed Brkic, vice-president of the Social Democratic Party, a List member. He knows that his side cannot win, but supporters are enjoying themselves at the expense of the nationalist bebemoths - although only on the territory of the Muslim-Croat Federation, since they are unable to venture into the Srpska Republic, the entity held by separatist Serbs.

A leaflet addressed to first-time voters addresses burning questions: Can you vote if you are an adult with no sexual experience? If you don't vote you will be screwed anyway. Who should I vote for and why? For the United List because they are

not as bad as the others... and who should I vote against? Against those who won the last election. They promised to take us to Europe, but they did not say it would be in a wheelchair.

At a cheerful rally held on Sarajevo's main street, some 7,000 voters turned out to hear List candidates. "They bombed us and bombarded us with propaganda to persuade us that we cannot live together, but they did not succeed because you stayed here to defend Sarajevo and to convince us that three nations can still live together," said Dragan Vikić, a Serb who commanded a Bosnian military unit and is recognised as a hero. A young Serb woman said she

would vote for the List despite certain failure. "They will not win because most people are going to vote for these guys," she said, pointing to a cable sagging under SDA posters. Mr Brkic is not even sure the group will win Sarajevo and Tuzla, whose mayor, Salim Beslagić, is a List candidate, because although the party will do well among the educated, urban types, it will not claim the suburbs or the countryside, where people will vote along ethnic lines.

A middle-aged man in a Tuzla shop said he was voting for the United List and identified himself as Mayor Beslagić's brother. "I'm not voting for my brother, but for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina who have suffered so much," Alija Beslagić said. "During the war, the local government kept Tuzla multi-ethnic and multi-confessional, and we want Bosnia to be like that."

Even in Tuzla there is some anxiety about being seen to support the List against the SDA. Three burly young men at a cafe in the square where a Serb shell landed in May 1995, killing 71, were hesitant to discuss the elections. But Izo, a Muslim, eventually said: "Intelligence builds a country," and we knew we had found List supporters.

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international

Nato and EU set date for Eastern recruits

Tony Barber examines the redrawing of the map of Europe

Western leaders made clear this week that they aim to incorporate several new Central and East European democracies into Nato in 1999 and the European Union in 2000. The enlargement of the two alliances will represent the most far-reaching transformation of the political and security map of Europe since the fall of Communism in 1989.

The leading candidates for early membership of Nato and the EU are considered to be the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia. However, Nato and the EU intend to wait until next year before making public the names of the countries that will be invited to start membership negotiations.

The disclosure that Nato aims to accept new members in 1999 was made in London this week by Robert Hunter, the US ambassador at Nato's Brussels headquarters.

Addressing the Royal United Services Institute, he said Nato would hold a summit in late spring or early summer next year at which invitations would be issued to certain Central and East European countries. He anticipated that these countries would become full members of Nato on or before the 50th anniversary of the alliance's foundation. The anniversary falls on 4 April, 1999.

Jacques Chirac of France said in Warsaw yesterday that he hoped Poland would join the EU by 2000. Although Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany and other EU leaders have mentioned this date in the past, the fact that Mr Chirac did so in a speech to both houses of the Polish parliament invested it with a special significance.

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, said in Prague in April that accession negotiations for prospective EU member-states could be completed by 2000 "if everyone worked as hard as the Czechs to become EU members". The EU aims to start accession talks about six months after the end of its current Inter-Governmental Conference, which seems likely to end in mid-1997.

For an entry date of 2000 to be realistic, the terms of admission for the new members will have to include special arrangements to soften the impact of full-blown competition on vulnerable industrial and agricultural sectors. This is likely to mean a lengthy transition before the Central and East European states are fully integrated into the single market.

Although the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland have made substantial economic progress since 1989, they are much less wealthy than Greece, Portugal and Spain when they



Thinking bigger: President Chirac addressing Polish MPs yesterday, when he said he hoped Poland would join the EU by 2000

joined the EU in the 1980s. However, Slovenia, which seceded from former Yugoslavia in 1991, is more prosperous and has the highest standard of living and per capita Gross National Product in Central

Europe. For some politicians in the former Soviet-dominated half of Europe, Nato membership is an even bigger prize than admission to the EU, since it would provide a cast-iron security guarantee in an alliance

led by the United States. But governments in the region have expressed fears in recent years that Nato might not take them under its wing for fear of rupturing relations with Russia.

President Boris Yeltsin and almost all Russian politicians and military commanders continue to oppose Nato's expansion in public. However, some now seem privately reconciled to a limited enlargement of the alliance provided that Nato

does not turn Central Europe into a "forward base" with Russia as the target. Nato aims to solve its Russia problem by signing a charter with Moscow that would set out the terms of a uniquely close

and co-operative relationship. However, Nato officials stress that this would not offer Russia a security condominium over Central and East Europe, and that all countries which join Nato will have exactly the same security guarantees, including the US nuclear umbrella, as the present 16 members.

The Czechs, Hungarians, Poles and Slovenians are prominent candidates for Nato entry partly because they meet, or are close to meeting, essential conditions for membership set out by Nato last year.

These include internal democracy, civilian control of the armed forces and a lack of territorial and other disputes with neighbours.

Significantly, Hungary and Romania are to sign a treaty on Monday designed to bury their differences over issues such as the status of ethnic Hungarians in Romania.

The treaty should remove the last important obstacle to Hungary's membership, but few expect Romania to be among the first new Nato entrants.

The fact that some countries will join Nato and the EU earlier than others is causing considerable dismay and even alarm among those likely to be left out.

This is especially true for the three Baltic states, which live in fear of a Russian move against their newly acquired independence. "It's not so easy to sleep next to elephants," said Latvia's Foreign Minister, Valdis Birkavs.

Atlantic allies will march to a new tune

Nato's expansion will coincide with a fundamental operational restructuring, writes Christopher Bellamy

Expanding Nato is expected to be easier than enlarging the European Union.

As Robert Hunter, US ambassador to Nato, told the Royal United Services Institute in London on Wednesday, Nato enlargement will take place in parallel with reorganisation of the alliance.

As it expands to cover more countries, possibly four more by early 1999, it will also "de-layered". There are 67 Nato military headquarters, command bunkers with large staffs, and sophisticated communications. Thirty will be abolished as Nato adjusts to the new world order and to new members.

The Nato Military Committee, comprising the military chiefs of 15 of its 16 member-states, met this week at Estoril, near Lisbon, to discuss reorganisation, which centres on reducing the number of command levels. There are now four, from the highest, strategic command centres in Belgium and the US down to the commands of individual fleets, armies and air forces.

The Military Committee has recommended reducing the number of layers to three. Their proposals will go to a meeting of Nato defence ministers at Bergen, Norway, on 26 September. The Military committee chairman, General Klaus Naumann, said: "The decision will be taken by the political authorities, not by us."

But the political authorities are unlikely to challenge the lesser, lesser Nato organisation. The top level of command will remain unchanged, with two strategic headquarters: the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (Shap) near Mons, and Supreme Allied Command Atlantic (Saclant), based at Norfolk, Virginia.

It will acquire greater significance, as Nato military experts have recommended there should be permanent Russian missions at the two headquarters, thus assuaging Moscow's concerns about Nato expansion.

The Russians are keen to have a special relationship with Nato - known as "16 plus one" - at the highest level, which the new arrangements would guarantee. Mr Hunter said the presence of a Russian brigade, effectively under Nato command, in the US sector in Bosnia was an indicator of things to come.

The second, regional, level would be restructured to reduce the number of commands from the present nine. Within Shap's area there are three commands - Northern Central and Southern Europe. Within Saclant's area there are three areas - eastern and western Atlantic and Iberia, and also commands for US strike fleets, all submarines in the Atlantic and the Standing Naval Force Atlantic. Although no firm decision has been made, the number of these "major subor-

ordinate commands" could be reduced to three or four. Below that, there are two more layers of Nato command before individual national units. These will also be restructured.

The restructuring will proceed in parallel with accession of new members. Mr Hunter said: "I suspect that the first new allies will join Nato on or before the 50th anniversary on April 4, 1999." He stressed that there was no halfway house to Nato membership.

He said many of the conditions for entering into a commitment as serious as Nato membership were close to being fulfilled by the most likely candidates, which include Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia, and that there would be more than one intake of new members. The most time-consuming requirement will be the

French plea

Paris - The French Defence Minister, Charles Millon, yesterday called for a European general chosen by the Western European Union defence grouping to be appointed deputy to Nato's American supreme allied commander in Europe, Reuter reports. His suggestion was one of a series of proposals by Paris to boost Europe's role in the US-dominated alliance and enable France to return to full membership.

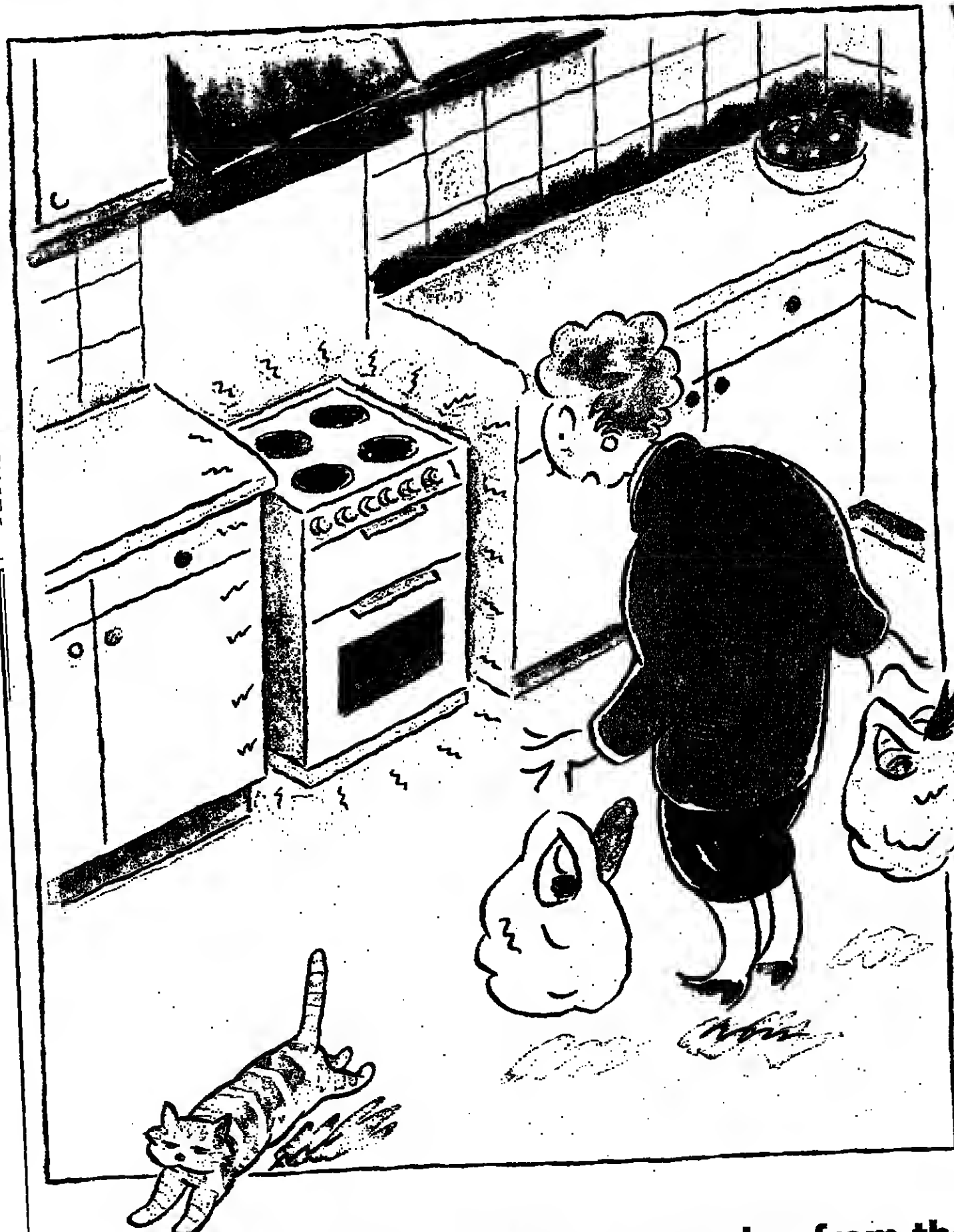
need for the parliaments of the countries wishing to join to ratify membership - it is not an automatic decision by national governments.

All Nato members have to be producers, as well as consumers of security, so their armed forces have to meet Nato standards of effectiveness. Neither must Nato expansion lead to a new iron curtain east of the old one.

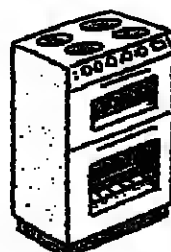
A number of bilateral and trilateral arrangements, including the arrangement between Britain, Poland and Ukraine announced last week, will help to bridge any gap that might otherwise emerge between Nato and non-Nato.

Increasing military co-operation between Nato and East European states under the Partnership for Peace initiative is further breaking down the barriers to the East Europeans joining. Nato's prime requirements are that new members must have sufficient staff officers trained in the two official Nato languages, English and French. They must have no territorial ambitions and must develop command, control and communications networks compatible with Nato's.

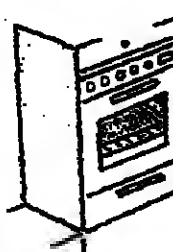
With enough linguists and the right radios, they will be able to join.



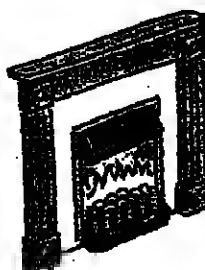
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Oct-Apr
Romantic country house in magnificent highland setting. Log fires, home comforts and great cooking.

Columbia House Hotel & Restaurant
Manse Road, Kingussie, Highland, PH21 1JF
01540 661402 £60.00
Oct-Apr
Small, welcoming country house hotel with scenic views, all rooms ensuite, four posters available and private parking.

Royal Circus Hotel
19-21 Royal Circus, Edinburgh, Lothian, EH3 6TL
0131 220 5000 £80.00
Oct-Apr
Ideally located in the city centre within walking distance of all the major attractions and quietly overlooking gardens.

The Chestnuts Hotel
52 Racecourse Road, Ayr, Strathclyde, KA7 2UZ
01292 264393 £68.00
Oct-Apr
Family run hotel in charming Victorian building with a wood panelled bar and open fire. Excellent food and real ales.

Finlayson Arms Hotel
Hillhead, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3AB
01889 570298 £52.00
Oct-Apr
Family run hotel conveniently situated for golf courses and 'Burns country'. All rooms ensuite and a comfortable lounge with log fire.

Kames Hotel
Kames, by Tighnabruich, Strathclyde, PA21 2AF
01700 811489 £60.00
Oct-Apr
Magnificent views over Kyles of Bute, good food, real ales, fine malt whiskies and a friendly welcome.

Wales
Bryn Derwen Hotel
Abbey Road, Llangollen, Chwyd, LL20 8EF
01978 860583 £65.00
Oct-Apr
A warm welcome awaits you in this homely hotel overlooking the steam railway and the picturesque Vale of Llangollen.

Groves Hotel
North Parade, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 2NF
01970 617623 £64.00
Oct-Apr
Town centre hotel ideally situated for the University and the National Library of Wales.

Hotel Mariners
Mariners Square, Faversham, Kent, SA61 2DU
01437 763353 From £65.00
Oct-Apr
17th century family run hotel centrally situated in a quiet part of town, an excellent base for touring south west Wales.

The Riverside Hotel
Cinderhill Street, Monmouth, Gwent, NP5 3EY
01600 715577 £71.00
Oct-Apr
A private hotel offering a warm welcome, quality rooms and a restaurant with professional service.

Bryn Tirion Hotel
Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey, Gwynedd, LL75 8RZ
01248 852366 £65.00
Oct-Apr
Furnished to a high standard with beautiful views of Red Wharf Bay and a cosy intimate restaurant.

Dragon Hotel
Montgomery, Powys, SY15 6PA
01686 668359 £69.00
Oct-Apr
17th century family run coaching inn with indoor swimming pool, fine restaurant, real ales and well located for peaceful walking.



AVON
Bailbrook Lodge Hotel
35-37 London Road West, Bath, Avon, BA1 7HZ
01225 859090 £48.00
Nov-Mar Sun-Thurs
Splendid Georgian 12 bedroomed hotel close to centre, elegantly refurbished with modern facilities and car parking.

The Old Malthouse Hotel
Radford, Tisbury, Nr Bath, Avon, BA3 1QF
01761 470106 £66.00
Oct-Apr
A hotel of character set in beautiful surroundings with a restaurant specialising in English country cooking.

Parkside Hotel
470 Bath Road, Bristol, Avon, BS4 3HQ
0117 971 1461 £73.00
Oct-Apr
Built in 1760 for a wealthy Bristol merchant the Parkside still boasts many original features.

CHESHIRE
Eaton Hotel
29 City Road, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 3AE
01244 320840 £60.00
Nov-Apr
Canalside hotel within 5 minutes walk of city centre, tourist attractions and convenient for station.

CORNWALL
Peomorvah Manor Hotel
Budeck Water, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 5ED
01326 250277 £70.00
Oct-Mar
'Cornish Hideaway' in 6 acres of gardens and woodland, serving superb food in a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Fieldhead Hotel
Portman Road, Looe, Cornwall, PL13 2DR
01503 262689 £76.00
Oct-Dec-Feb-Apr
Turn of the century house set in 1.5 acres overlooking the bay with an intimate candlelit restaurant.

Mount Haven Hotel & Restaurant
Turnpike Road, Marazion, Penzance, Cornwall, TR17 0DQ
01738 710249 £65.00
Oct-Apr
Overlooking St Michael's Mount and the sea. Excellent restaurant with Rosette awarded for food. Ideal touring centre for Cornwall.

CUMBRIA
The Grammar Country House Hotel
Cartmel, Cumbria, LA11 7SG
015395 36367 £68.00
Oct-Dec-Mar-Apr
Quality hotel in own grounds in beautiful Vale of Cartmel offering peace, tranquility and good food guaranteed.

The Whitewater Hotel
The Lakeland Village, Newby Bridge, Cumbria, LA12 8PX
015395 31133 £95.00
Nov-Apr
A converted old mill with a health club enjoying a riverside location at the southern end of Windermere.

DERBYSHIRE
Abbeydale Hotel
Cross Street, Chesterfield, Derby, S40 4TD
01246 277849 £58.00
Oct-Apr
A quiet location within strolling distance of market square and convenient for Peak District and Chatsworth.

DEVON
Hoops Inn & Hotel
Horns Cross, Nr Clovelly, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5DL
01237 451222 £72.00
Oct-Dec-Apr
Romantic thatched inn near south west coastal path.

Cockhaven Manor Inn
Cockhaven Road, Bishopscleeve, Devon, TQ14 9RF

01626 775252 £50.00
Oct-Apr
16th Century inn lovingly restored retaining its old world charm and character overlooking the Teign estuary.

Great Western Hotel
St David's Station Approach, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4NU
01392 274039 £52.00
Oct-Apr
Family owned city hotel with an excellent restaurant also superb bar food, complemented with real ales.

The Belfry Country Hotel
Yarcombe, Nr Honiton, Devon, EX14 9BD
01404 861234 £64.00
Oct-Apr
Converted Victorian village school with six luxury ensuite rooms and an AA Rosette for scrumptious home cooking.

Old Church House Inn
Torbray, Ipplepen, Devon, TQ12 5UR
01803 812372 £70.00
Oct-Apr
Inn of immense character and old world charm in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

White Hart Hotel
The Square, Moretonhamstead, Devon, TQ13 8NF
01647 440406 £65.00
Oct-Apr
An historic inn in a moorland town, excellent for touring Dartmoor National Park and the west country.

DORSET
Kensbrook Hotel & Restaurant
Pound Road, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3HX
01297 442596 £90.20
Oct-Apr
18th century thatched listed hotel in an acre of gardens overlooking Lyme Bay.

Millmead Country Hotel
Goose Hill, Portesham, Dorset, DT3 4HE
01305 871432 £70.00
Oct-Apr
Family managed hotel in 'Hardy Country' with a small cosy restaurant serving excellent cuisine prepared by chef patron.

GLOUCESTER
Chester House Hotel
Victoria Street, Bourton on the Water, Gloucs, GL54 2BU
01451 820286 £79.50
Nov-Apr Sun-Fri
Occupying a quiet but central spot in one of the Cotswolds' most scenic villages.

Allards Hotel & Restaurant
Shurdington Road, Cheltenham, Gloucs, GL51 5XA
01242 862498 £69.00
Oct-Apr
3 acres of grounds adjacent to Cheltenham, Gloucester and the Cotswolds. Relax in an attractive restaurant offering regional dishes.

Victoria Hotel
Newnham on Severn, Gloucs, GL14 1AD
01594 516221 £60.00
Oct-Apr
17th century family run hotel positioned in the gateway to the Village of Dean.

Jessop House Hotel
65 Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucs, GL20 5RZ
01684 292017 £75.00
Oct-Apr
A Georgian Grade II listed town house situated opposite Tewkesbury's historic abbey.

HAMPSHIRE
Ashburn Hotel & Restaurant
Damerham Road (B 3078), Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 1JP
01425 652060 £79.20
Oct-Apr
Friendly family run fully licensed hotel with 20 ensuite bedrooms situated on the edge of the New Forest.

KENT
Abbot's Fireside Hotel
Elham, Nr Canterbury, Kent, TQ14 9RF

CTH 6TD
01303 840265 £59.00
Oct-Apr Sun-Fri
Pre-Renaissance with carved Gargoyles and real Old World charm. The restaurant is beamed with a massive fireplace.

LANCASHIRE
White Hall Hotel & Restaurant
Whitehall, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 2JU
01254 701595 £70.00
Oct-Apr
Centrally located country house, excellently appointed with leisure facilities. Close to moorland, lakes and coast.

LINCOLNSHIRE
Garden House Hotel
St Martins, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2LD
01780 63359 £79.50
Oct-Apr
18th century 3 star family run hotel set in an acre of gardens with many personal touches and service assured.

MIDDLESEX
Starwell Hall Hotel
171 Town Lane, Stargrove, Staines, Middx, TW19 7PW
01784 252292 £90.00
Oct-Apr
A Victorian country house hotel set in an acre of gardens and close to Heathrow Airport.

NORFOLK
The Lifeboat Inn
Ship Lane, Thornham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE36 6LT
01485 512236 £65.00
Oct-Apr
Built as a Hunting Lodge in 1787 this hotel is famed for its food by locals and visitors alike.

Georgian House Hotel
32-34 Unthank Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 2RB
01425 615655 £60.00
Oct-Mar
This hotel has 27 well appointed ensuite rooms and is just 5 minutes stroll from the city centre.

NORTHUMBERLAND
Brandon House Hotel
High Street, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0AX
01842 810171 £65.00

Northumberland, NE65 OXB
01665 712176 £75.00
Oct-Apr
A country house hotel set at the heart of the village.

EAST SUSSEX
Granville Hotel
124 Kings Road, Brighton, E Sussex, BN1 2FA
01273 326302 £75.00
Oct-Dec-Apr Sun-Thurs
Small town house hotel on Brighton's sea front. Romantic antique four poster beds are available.

SHROPSHIRE
The Redfern Hotel
Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8AA
01299 270395 £80.00
Oct-Apr
11 ensuite rooms, log fire in the bar and AA Rosette for food. Situated close to Ludlow and Ironbridge.

SOMERSET
Oak House
The Square, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2AP
01934 732444 £54.00
Oct-Mar
Friendly historic hotel in a Medieval market square, all rooms are ensuite and there is a log fire and excellent food.

The Devonshire Arms Hotel
Long Sutton, Nr Langport, Somerset, TA10 9LP
01458 241271 From £45.00
Oct-Apr
Built as a Hunting Lodge in 1787 this hotel is famed for its food by locals and visitors alike.

The Apple Tree Hotel & Restaurant
Keenhouse, Nr Nether Stowey, Somerset, TA5 1HZ
01278 733238 £50.00
Oct-Apr
Country hotel on the A39 Bridgwater to Minehead road with an emphasis on real fresh food and good service.

SUFFOLK
Brandon House Hotel
High Street, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0AX
01842 810171 £65.00

Oct-Apr
Georgian hotel situated on the edge of a market town and central for exploring East Anglia.

Downland Hotel & Restaurant
37 Lewes Road, Eastbourne, E Sussex, BN21 2BU
01323 732689 £75.00
Oct-Apr
Charming small hotel offering relaxed, friendly atmosphere and superb food in its award winning restaurant.

WEST SUSSEX
Black Mill House Hotel
Princess Avenue, Bognor Regis, W Sussex, PO21 2QU
01243 821945 £64.00
Oct-Apr
Comfortable family run friendly hotel near Chichester and the South Downs, offering traditional English food and hospitality.

Chequers Hotel
Church Place, Putborough, W Sussex, RH20 1AD
01798 872486 From £77.00
Oct-Apr
Country hotel in Sussex downland village with luxury ensuite rooms, log fires and candlelit award winning restaurant.

Cavendish Hotel
115 Marine Parade, Worthing, W Sussex, BN11 3QG
01903 236767 £65.00
Oct-Apr
Prime seafloor location and ideal for touring Sussex Villages and Downs, Chichester, Arundel, Goodwood, Brighton & Lewes.

WILTSHIRE
The Lamb at Hindon

How to Qualify
To qualify for your 2 for 1 break, you must collect three differently numbered tokens from the seven we have printed in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Your final token, Token 7 is printed today. Your three tokens should be attached to the voucher that was printed in yesterday's paper. Then follow our booking procedure which is listed below.

Terms and Conditions
1. To participate in our 2 for 1 offer you must collect 3 differently numbered tokens and attach them to a voucher printed in The Independent on Thursday 12 September.
2. The voucher may be redeemed at any participating Minotels hotel (from the hotel list printed in The Independent on Friday 13 September) for one free night's bed and breakfast for two people in a standard twin or double bedded room when the first night's bed and breakfast is pre-purchased at the price indicated.

3. Some hotels, at the proprietor's discretion, will accept the voucher for longer stays on the same basis, so you can stay for 4 nights for the price of 2 for example. Please check with your chosen hotel when making your booking.
4. The voucher does not cover payment for any other meals or service that may be requested by the holder and cannot be used with any other offer, saving or discount that may be available at the hotel.
5. One child, under the age of 12 years at the time of booking and sharing a room with two adults will be accommodated free of charge but all meals, including breakfast, will be chargeable.
6. The descriptions and prices contained in this offer have been supplied by participating hotels. While every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy, prior to publication, no responsibility can be taken by Newspaper Publishing plc, Charterhouse Promotions or Minotels for any error, omission or changes that may take place afterwards without notice.
7. No bookings will be accepted for Bank holiday periods.
8. All bookings must be made no more than

six weeks in advance of your proposed date of arrival.
9. Vouchers are valid from 1 October 1996 - 30 April 1997.
10. Vouchers must be surrendered on arrival at the hotel and can be used on one occasion only.
11. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not acceptable.
Booking Procedure
1. All bookings must be made by telephone direct with each individual hotel. Callers must identify themselves as "Independent 2

for 1 voucher holders" as some hotels may have standard or superior rooms available at normal rates when their allocation of 2 for 1 rooms is full.
2. All bookings must be pre-paid and reservations can be confirmed over the telephone by credit card holders at most hotels.
3. Voucher holders wishing to pay by other methods can make a provisional booking by phone which the hotel will keep open for 48 hours pending receipt of the confirmation booking form and payment which will be acknowledged by the hotel on the day it is received. If you do not receive such an acknowledgment within seven days, you are advised to contact the hotel.
4. No shows or cancellations less than 14 days prior to the anticipated date of arrival at the hotel will render the voucher invalid and the holder liable for payment in full for each night booked, including those previously offered free.
5. All bookings made under this promotion are subject to availability and to the selected hotel's own terms and conditions, except where those conditions may differ from those in which case these conditions shall prevail.



obituaries / gazette

Bill Monroe

Though he was known as "the father of bluegrass music", Bill Monroe, who died on Monday only days before his 85th birthday, did not invent the genre. But like the moment when Louis Armstrong let rip on "West End Blues" and "invented" the jazz solo, or when Charlie Christian plugged in his guitar and started playing like a horn, Monroe's 1936 Bluebird recordings marked a cusp, a qualitative change when so many strands, from the high lonesome sound of solo singers like Roscoe Holcomb, Clarence Ashley and Buell Kazee to the jazzy, offbeat strum of Monroe's own mandolin chording, came together to create something entirely new, and yet entirely rooted in its past.

Like so much white popular music of the pre-rock years, bluegrass owed as much to black influences as to the Anglo-American tradition, and Monroe had fond memories of "woodshedding" with a black fellow Kentuckian, the guitarist Arnold Schultz. He didn't write a song about him, though, as he did for his uncle, the fiddler Pen Vandiver, immortalised in a lyric which celebrated family music-making, with each member's voice singing the high and low lines as appropriate, in the style which became as

much of a bluegrass hallmark as the guitar, mandolin and fiddle front-line melodies, the instrumentalists stepping forward to the mike to take their solos as required, but always interplaying with a synergy reminiscent of a New Orleans trumpet, clarinet and trombone line-up.

He was born in 1911 on a farm in western Kentucky near the town of Rosine (population 400). He and his five brothers and two sisters picked up on their musical traditions from the fiddle-playing and ballad-singing of their mother, though it was his brothers Birch and Charlie who first took up playing semi-professionally, having gone north to Chicago in search of work during the Depression.

All three began playing together and after touring with the seminal WLS Barn Dance roadshow, they began broadcasting from station WWAE, in Hammond, Indiana, in 1930. Birch decided to concentrate on his non-musical work in the oil refineries, but after moving to the Carolinas Bill and Charlie landed a contract with RCA Victor's Bluebird label, recording songs that ranged from their debut single, which Bill had learnt in church when he was just 14, "What Would

You Give in Exchange for Your Soul?", to "Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms" and the black-origined "Nine Pound Hammer".

In 1938 the two brothers separated, Charlie to start up a trio which blossomed into the Kentucky Partners band, Bill to begin the first of many Blue Grass Boys (the separation of the first two words in the name was important to him), initially with the guitarist Cleo Davis, the bassist Arno Garin, and the fiddler Art Wooten. In 1942 he added David "Stringbean" Akeman on banjo, though not a player in the florid, heavily accented style favoured by the famous Earl Scruggs, who joined him in 1945. It was this line-up, with Lester Flatt on guitar, Chubby Wise (fiddle), and Howard "Cedric Rainwater" Watts (bass), which defined the sound of what is seen now as "classic" bluegrass, and it sounded that way throughout countless personnel changes.

Over the years, Monroe attracted the cream of country musicians and old singers, most notably his old rival Carter Stanley, when Flatt and Scruggs went on to fame as a duo in their own right, but also including the younger generation who had been inspired by his example, like the fiddler

Richard Greene, the banjoist Bill Keith, and the guitarist Peter Rowan.

Another young man to be inspired by him was a young truckdriver by the name of Elvis Presley, who made an upbeat version of Monroe's "Blue Moon of Kentucky" into one of his first singles, which he sang at his debut at WSM's Grand Ole Opry, where Monroe had been a mainstay since October 1939.

Monroe's music had a third incarnation as part of the post-war American folk revival, where those college kids unable, or unwilling, to identify with Bob Dylan's protesting growl found the foot-tapping insistence and high tenor harmonies of bluegrass more to their taste, though the left-led revival was something of a strange environment for this rather stiff Southern gentleman to find himself. The folklorist Ralph Rinzler - no mean mandolin player himself - took the band under his wing, wrote scholarly sleeve notes to their albums, and gave them the sort of respectability the revivalists wouldn't concede to a mere "pop" musician, which of course is what he was.

Surprisingly, when so many of the younger, bluegrass-inspired musicians made it their business

to be seen around Soho and Cambridge, Monroe didn't come over to Britain for a long time, but then appeared regularly at Wembley country music festivals, amid the spangles and rhinestones that had become as much a part of the trappings of country as long hair and jeans were of folk. I met him on one of these occasions, and he was remarkably patient when asked questions he must have answered a thousand times before, though assuming, wrongly, that my tape recorder meant I represented some UK radio station, wishing my listeners good luck in conclusion, professional to the last.

With a score of awards as long as your arm - starting with his well-deserved entry to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1970 - he had changed the sound, not only of country music, but of popular music throughout the world (he had lots of fans in Japan). He never set out to be a pioneer. But that's often the way with true pioneers.

Karl Dallas

William Smith Monroe, singer, songwriter, mandolin player, born Rosine, Kentucky 15 September 1911; twice married (one son); died Nashville, Tennessee 9 September 1996.



Monroe: foot-tapping insistence and high tenor harmonies

Photograph: Ebet Roberts / Redferns

Joanne Dru

In 1948-50 Joanne Dru starred in three of the finest Hollywood westerns and an Academy Award-winning drama. Though never a major star, her work in these films - Howard Hawks's *Red River*, John Ford's cavalry western *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* and his elegiac *Wagonmaster*, plus Robert Rossen's powerful political drama *All the King's Men* - has ensured her a permanent place in film history. A beautiful brunette with high cheekbones and a provocative personality, she provided the sort of feistiness that both Hawks and Ford sought in their leading ladies.

Her real name was Joanne LaCock and she was born in West Virginia in 1923. She entered show business via a modelling career and was performing in a night-club chorus when she met the crooner Dick Haymes, who took her to Hollywood when he was signed for movies and helped her start an acting career. She made her screen debut in *Abie's Irish Rose* (1946). Based on a 1922 play which had confounded critics by running for five years, its tale of Jewish and Irish families trading racial insults while feuding over the romance of their son and daughter was hopelessly old-fashioned and tasteless and the film received limited distribution. Two

years later she was luckier when Hawks chose her to play opposite John Wayne and Montgomery Clift in his western classic *Red River*. In this sprawling saga which dramatised the first cattle drive from Texas to Kansas, John Wayne and Montgomery Clift (in his first film) played a ruthless rancher and his rebellious adopted son whose tempestuous relationship climaxes with a violent brawl in which they almost kill one another. Dru was the resolute pioneer who refuses to be separated from Clift whatever the hardships. After the climactic fight, Dru delivers an emotional tirade rebuking the two men and provoking a reconciliation, an ending despised by Clift "because Joanne Dru settles the matter and it makes the showdown between me and John Wayne a farce".

Her *Yellow Ribbon* (1949) was a romantic classic in which Wayne poignantly played an ageing cavalry officer unable to come to terms with a changing way of life. As a young woman being escorted across country by the military troupe, Dru was courted by two of the officers (John Agar and Harry Carey Jr). The same year she starred in Robert Rossen's Oscar-winning *All the King's Men*, based on the life of the former Louisiana governor Huey

Long (here called Willie Stark) and an uncompromising portrait of an initially idealistic politician who turns corrupt and fascist. Dru was a respectable girl who is blackmailed into becoming Stark's mistress then abandoned, provoking Stark's assassination by her brother. The story was seen through the eyes of a reporter played by Dru's second husband, (The writer of *Red River*, Borden Chase, once recounted that he had been told to reduce Ireland's role in that film because he was "messing with Hawks's girl").

Both her marriages were reportedly stormy, and she continued to fight Haymes for alimony throughout his ensuring courtship of Rita Hayworth. John Ford's *Wagonmaster* (1950), the director's favourite of his films, was shot in Monument Valley and beautifully depicted the journey of a group of Mormons being guided by a tough cowboy (Ben Johnson) to their "promised land" in the unexplored west. Dru was a spirited medicine-show performer who becomes part of the wagon train in the film, which was a financial failure but is now regarded as a masterpiece.

None of Dru's subsequent films approached the quality of these four, but Joseph H. Newman's *711 Ocean Drive* (1950)

was an efficient film noir (allegedly shot under police guard) exposing gambling syndicates. Dru was the wife of a syndicate boss who falls in love with a former telephone engineer who has ruthlessly risen to be head of the gang, Rudolph Mate's *Forbidden* (1953) was a sleek thriller in which a hoodlum (Tony Curtis) journeys to Macao to find Dru, a racketeer's widow, and bring her back to the US with the incriminating evidence she possesses.

Many of Dru's roles were, though, becoming harder - she was a social worker whose fiancé takes her for granted in *Mr. Belvedere Rings the Bell* (1951), a schoolteacher who brings a father and son closer in *My Pal Gus* (1953), the sweetheart of an oilman prospecting in the Gulf of Mexico in one of Anthony Mann's lesser pieces, *Thunder Bay* (1953); a nurse taming a troublesome convict in *Duffy of San Quentin* (1954), and a faithful secretary to Liberace as a concert pianist stricken deaf in the disastrous *Sincerely Yours* (1956).

She continued to appear in westerns - *Vengeance Valley* (1951), *Return of the Texan* (1952), *Outlaw Territory* (1953) and *The Siege at Red River* (1954), but these were routine affairs. The best of her later journeys west was *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1957), an in-

teresting account of the reconstruction period after the Civil War, made by the star Jeff Chandler's own production company, and superbly photographed by James Wong Howe, with Dru effective as a Union sympathiser whose father is lynched by a Southern mob. She was active in television throughout the Fifties, guesting on many anthology shows including *Wagon Train* and *Lux Video Theatre*.

In 1981 she returned to the screen after a 16-year absence to star in *Super Fuzz*, a low-budget action comedy, but she did not do it for the money. Since 1972 she had been married to C.V. Wood Jr, a Texas multi-millionaire, the owner of an oil company and the Silver Lakes Nightclub, and a prime investor in the original London Bridge which was profitably reconstructed at Lake Havasu in Arizona.

Tom Vallance

Joanne Letitia LaCock (Joanne Dru), actress: born Logan, West Virginia 31 January 1923; married 1941 Dick Haymes (one son, two daughters; marriage dissolved 1949); 1949 John Ingram (two sons; marriage dissolved 1956); 1963 George Pierce (died 1971); 1972 C.V. Wood Jr (died Beverly Hills, California 10 September 1996).

Ray Coleman

"Somewhere - he must be near a telephone." Ray Coleman's insistent demands could instil a sense of urgency into the most indolent and laid-back rock writer. As the editor of *Melody Maker*, the world's best weekly music paper, Coleman was determined to exact Fleet Street standards from his staff. Through his own strong will and professionalism, he helped create a dynamic newspaper that prospered throughout the heyday of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, into the era of Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.

His own brand of hard-hitting popular journalism helped realise what could have remained a cosy trade journal. Banner headlines proclaiming "Beatle Mania!" and candid interviews with John Lennon and Paul McCartney brought a bold new realism to pop reporting. Tenacious and competitive, Coleman demanded and got the best interviews, in which he probed the characters of pop stars previously treated as mere fannish fodder. He also delighted in controversy and confrontation and was not averse to such abrasive headlines as "Stones Flop In America" even if it meant angry calls from their manager, Andrew Oldham, or scowls from Mick Jagger. Typically Colemanesque headlines would proclaim: "Boiling Beatles Blast Copycats", "Beatles

Blast Knockers" or "Would You Let Your Sister Go With A Rolling Stone?"

Yet, behind the tough exterior of the "foot in the door" reporter who became the copy-chasing editor was an essentially shy and nervously energetic man, who loved traditional jazz, chess, the songs of Bob Dylan and the music of Miles Davis. He was fond of making snap judgements. "Losers" or "boring" would be his response to heavy promotion for artists he couldn't stomach. But in the fast-moving pop world he liked to keep his finger on the pulse, using the phrase himself with conscious irony.

The son of a Polish immigrant, Coleman was born in Leicester and started his career on the *Leicester Evening Mail* at the age of 15. He served as a copy boy and managed to sneak in reports about his own chess matches. A keen and determined player, he eventually became a runner-up in the Great British Junior Chess Championships.

At the age of 20 he joined the *Brighton Evening Argus* where he spent a year "covering courts, councils, fires and murders". His ambition was to become a Fleet Street reporter, but for a while he went to the *Manchester Evening News* to specialise in industry. At the same time, he be-

came a "stringer" for *Melody Maker*. His brother was a semi-professional jazz guitarist and the *MM* was considered essential family reading. He said later: "As a practising journalist, I kept looking to *Melody Maker*, which I thought was much better than the typical fan magazine of the time, and I was vain enough to think I should write for it."

After five years in Manchester he was offered a job with the *MM*. "I laughed actually because all I had ever wanted was to get on the *Daily Telegraph* as a news reporter. I wanted to wear a dirty raincoat and get my foot in the door. I liked to think I didn't take 'No' for an answer." Coleman joined the *Melody Maker* at their Fleet Street office in 1960, and at first found it hard to adjust to a different style of showbiz journalism. He couldn't see what was "newsworthy" about a string of Cliff Richard tour dates and preferred to sit up a row with the BBC or research a heavily angled investigation into the music business. Feeling frustrated, he planned to defect to the *Daily Telegraph*. Then he encountered a classic put-down from a *Telegraph* executive at his job interview. Asked where he worked, he replied: "The *Melody Maker*." And before that? "The *Manchester Evening News*." After a long pause, the

executive inquired icily: "Tell me, Mr Coleman, why did you leave journalism?"

Coleman was now determined to stay and prove the *MM* was a "real" newspaper. The paper vigorously covered the trad jazz boom when Chris Barber, Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball were headline news. Then, in 1963, the Beatles stormed to the top of the charts and the music scene changed overnight. Coleman became both their confidant and biggest fan. They enjoyed his enthusiastic support and his perceptive interviews and gave him a chance to be witty and outspoken. *MM*'s circulatory rose on a tidal wave of Beatlemania. Coleman became friends not only with the Beatles, but with their manager, Brian Epstein, and was welcomed on their historic early trips to America.

Within three years, Coleman became assistant editor under Jack Hutton. Says Jack: "Ray was merciless when it came to getting interviews. He'd tell a prevaricating PR when he was trying to get hold of John Lennon: 'Don't give me all that. Somewhere he's within that. Somewhere he's within that. If people weren't co-operative he'd ignore them and go on his own way. We used to beat the *NME* every week with his exclusive interviews. And people



Coleman: snap judgements Photograph: Jerry Bauer

trusted him. He never misquoted people and never fancies himself as a fancy phrases bot manager to convey the artists' feelings in an honest and straightforward way and in some depth."

In 1965, Coleman was promoted to become Editor of *Dix*, another IPC magazine. He returned to edit *Melody Maker* in 1970, when Jack Hutton left to start a new rival weekly, *Sounds*. During the boom years of rock, the *MM* covered the rise of David Bowie, Marc Bolan, Led Zeppelin and Genesis, and the circulation rose to over 200,000 copies a week. As Editor-in-Chief, Coleman over-

saw the establishment of an American edition of the *MM*, created new titles, *Black Music* and *Musicians Only*, and continued to champion new acts like Bob Marley and Queen on the *MM*'s "real newspaper" front page. In the late Seventies, critics claimed the *MM* had become out of step with changing times. Coleman responded by commissioning new writers like Caroline Coon and Allan Jones to tackle punk rock and the New Wave.

As an avowed socialist and a man of firm principles, Coleman never much enjoyed kowtowing to management. After an uncomfortable spell in the role of publisher, he quit IPC in the early Eighties and handed over the editorial reins of the *MM* to Richard Williams and Mike Oldfield. He applied all his old energy to his chosen role as a freelance author and produced a series of biographies noted for their accurate portrayals and meticulous research.

After making his debut with a book about the singer Gary Numan (1982), his first major project was a two-volume biography of John Lennon, first published in 1984. The first volume, *John Winston Lennon*, covered his career until he met John Ono Lennon, covered the rest of his life. The first book was authorised by Cynthia

Lennon and the second by Yoko. "It was quite a coup," says the Beatles' historian Mark Lewisohn. "Ray managed to bridge the gap between two widows, who were usually at loggerheads. The book was very successful and it was the first exhaustive biography of Lennon. It was candid but it wasn't scurrilous and you could be sure that everything in Ray's book actually happened. He loved Lennon and he didn't hide that, so it was an affectionate biography."

Coleman next wrote Eric Clapton's authorised biography, *Survivor*, in 1985. His book on the life of the late Brian Epstein (1989) was written with the help of Brian's mother, Queenie, who was blind, and he read every single line of the manuscript to her before publication. Subsequent books included *Stones Alone* (1990) with Bill Wyman, another with Gerry Marsden of the Pachelmachers (1993), and most recently books on the Carpenters (1994) and Frank Sinatra (1995). With Paul McCartney's assistance he wrote a book about one song, McCartney's classic "Yesterday". Says Lewisohn: "Everybody thought it was not only a daft idea but it would be a very slim volume. He quite cleverly turned out the book called *Yesterday and Today* comprising 80,000 words which really went

into the song and the times when it was written."

At the time of his death, Coleman was working on a biography of Phil Collins, due to be published next year. Apart from his writing, Coleman was closely involved with a fund-raising committee in aid of music therapy and also served on committees at the Performing Rights Society which helped set up an annual John Lennon Music Award.

Ray Coleman became ill last summer and was found to have a rare form of cancer of the kidney. He had the kidney removed and underwent intensive care and treatment. His wife, Pamela, says: "He refused to admit defeat and carried on working. He loved to sit in our 17th-century thatched cottage overlooking the sea near Land's End, writing and holding seven-hour phone conversations with Richard Carpenter and Paul McCartney. People would always ask him: 'Did you really know the Beatles?' We joked that would be on his memorial. He still loved to play chess with his friends - but as in everything, he always played to win."

Chris Welch

Ray Coleman, journalist and author: born Leicester 15 June 1937; married 1965 Pamela Rudd (two sons); died 10 September 1996.

Announcements for Gazette
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS
(Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriams) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephone 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette notices (funerals, notices, marriages, divorces, etc.) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays
Miss Carol Barnes, television newsreader, 52; Sir Roger Bell, High Court judge, 57; Miss Jacqueline Blissett, actress, 52; Li-Gen Sir Derek Boorman, former Chief of Defence Intelligence, 66; Sir John Condon, former Secretary-General of EFTA, 57; Sir George Eagle QC, former first Parliamentary Counsel, 70; Baroness Fisher of Redford, former MEP and local government councillor, 77; Lord Flowers, physicist and former Vice-Chancellor, London University, 72; Professor Sir John Gurn, natural philosopher, 80; Dr Gordon Johnson, President, Wollaton College, Cambridge, 53; Sir John Kay, High Court judge, 53; The Hon Colin Moynihan, former MP, 41; The Most

Rev George Noakes, former Archbishop of Wales, 72; Mr Colin Pickthall MP, 52; Sir Thomas Risk, former governor of the Bank of Scotland, 74; Mr Robert Sheldon MP, 73; Mr Robin Smith, cricketer, 33; Mr James Stuart-Smith QC, former Judge Advocate General, 77; Professor Sir Malcolm Sykes, anesthetist, 71; Mr Keith Thompson, former Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University, 64; Mr Mel Thom, singer, 71; Mr Shane Warne, cricketer, 27; Lord Weidenfeld, publisher, 77.

Anniversaries
Births: William Cecil, first Baron Burghley, statesman, 1530; Oliver Evans, inventor, 1755; Jean-Ignace Isidore Gérard, caricaturist, 1803; Clara Josephine Schumann (Wick), pianist, 1819; Dr Walter Reed, bacteriologist, 1851; Milton Suvarey Herbenby, chocolate company founder, 1857; John Joseph Pershing, expeditionary force commander during the First World War, 1868; Arthur Henderson, politician and Nobel prizewinner, 1863; Arnold Schoenberg, composer, 1874; John Boynton Priestley, author, 1894; Claude Lévi-Strauss, French anthropologist, 1908; Denise, Duchess of Montagu, scholar, 1937; Michel Eyquem de Montaigne, essayist, 1592; Philip II, King of Spain, 1598;

Ciro Ferri, painter, 1689; General James Wolfe, British soldier, killed in action 1759; Charles James Fox, statesman, 1806; Ludwig Feuerbach, philosopher and economist, 1827; Alexandre Herculanio de Carvalho e Araujo, poet, historian and politician, 1877; William Heath Robinson, artist and illustrator, 1944; Leopold Anton Stanislaw Bolelawowicz Stokowski, conductor, 1877; Dane Radlyan (Daniel Chennoviere), composer, occultist and astrologer, 1985; Joe Pasternak, film producer, 1991. On this day: the Battle of Marignano between the French and Swiss started, 1515; Montrose was defeated by the Covenanters at Philiphaugh, 1645; John Bunyan was released from Bedford jail after 12 years, 1672;

the Battle of Quebec was fought, when the British defeated the French, 1759; New York became the capital of the new United States of America, 1788; the British fleet began an unsuccessful bombardment of Fort Mchenry near Baltimore, 1814; General Chiang Kai-shek was re-elected president of the Republic of China, 1943. Today is the Feast Day of St Anatus or Amé, abbot, St Anatus or Amé, bishop, St Eulogius of Alexandria, St John Chrysostom and St Mauritius.

Lectures
National Gallery Susan Jones, "Dürer (ii): Albrecht Dürer, The Public and the Private", 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Miranda Neave, "Medieval Stained Glass", 2.30pm.
Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twobig, "Hans Hartung: Abstract Art in Post-war Paris", 1pm.

Synagogue services
Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.05pm.
United Synagogue: 0171-387 4300.
Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263.
Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1643.
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731.
Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573.
New London Synagogue (Mauritius): 0171-328 1026.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
Prince Edward, Patron, Scottish Badminton Union, attends the Friends Provident Grand Slam Tournament at the Bell's Sports Centre, Perth. The Duke of Kent, Patron, visits the Stoke Mandeville Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Research Trust, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

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Flexibility means giving workers support

Could it be that the Conservatives are a touch unnerved by this week's TUC? It seems that all the talk this week about low pay, job security and unemployment has left our government ministers feeling a little defensive. Yesterday William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary, went to great lengths to convince us that the flexible, deregulated labour market his government has done so much to promote is really much better for the poor, the jobless and the anxious than everyone thinks.

Times have changed. Before the recession, few Conservative ministers would have felt the need to defend themselves in this way. Freedom and flexibility were the great buzz words in the employment field, credited with creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in the Eighties boom. Why knock it, when the results for almost everyone seemed so good? If you lost your job then, you could get on your bike and find one.

Half a decade later, British voters are clearly not as impressed with the Government's employment record. The nation is at least ready to listen (even if not to be convinced) to the kinds of arguments aired at the TUC this week. It is true that the TUC's chosen figure for the minimum wage (£4.26 an hour) is far too high, and the employment rights they advocate are too restrictive and retrograde. But the political point

remains: the public is now more willing to listen to the left's criticisms of the Government's attitude to workplace stress. Job losses among the middle classes in particular, and the perception that available work is increasingly temporary, low paid and part time, are having an insidious effect on the economic confidence of swing voters.

Enter Mr Waldegrave, charged with talking down the feel-good factor. According to our Chief Secretary, all is well among the workers. Job insecurity, he says, is no worse than it ever was. People in low-paid temporary work quickly move into higher-paid permanent jobs. And any alternative to the Government's existing strategy would be bad for employment and the economy. The Government's deregulated jobs market, he argues, makes everyone better off.

Up to a point, Mr Waldegrave is right. There is very little evidence that middle-class jobs are really more at risk. Moreover, in a world of rapid technological change, preserving old outdated jobs is not the answer; we have to keep creating new jobs to keep up with the competition. Many of the employment reforms instituted by the Conservative government over the past 20 years have indeed injected a vital (and previously lacking) element of flexibility into the jobs market. This has accelerated the rate of new job

So far so good. The trouble is that while employers have flexibility, many employees do not. Businesses can easily hire, fire and create new jobs. But that is no good if their redundant workers lack the flexibility to adapt to the new jobs or to cope easily with the transition. Take another look at the figures. Half the people in temporary work are in permanent jobs a year later. Only half? What about everyone else? With temporary jobs on the increase, that means an awful lot of people are stuck on the edge of the jobs market, moving from employer to employer, with spells of unemployment in

between. Even more worrying, the ones who do not get the permanent jobs afterwards are more likely to come from households where no one else works.

The Government is right that many people do move fast from one job to another, up the employment ladder. But a significant proportion of the population is not so fortunate. They are trapped instead – perhaps by the benefit system, perhaps by their lack of up-to-date qualifications – in the twilight world of low pay, short-term contracts and dole queues.

Were that the only problem, the

Conservatives would not be fussed. After all, few of the unemployed are potential Tory voters. However, the Government's employment strategy is not too hot for voters in the middle either. For most of us, the statistical chance of losing a job has not increased all that much. But the costs of becoming unemployed have increased considerably. No matter how skilled you are, and how excellent your qualifications, the chances are you will have to take a substantial salary cut in your new job if you lose your old one. If you are unlucky, particularly if you are over 50, you may find the demand for your brand of skills and experience has dried up. Stay on the dole for six months and you might qualify for a training scheme. But in the meantime you will not get much help with your mortgage, or other benefits, unless you were able to take out insurance.

Policymakers have to realise that people need support to be flexible, and to cope with the rapid change around them. That may mean the chance to get new qualifications, or help finding work, or even a subsidy to get them back into employment at all. And – particularly for those swing voters who feel their prosperity is just a bit too precarious – it means offering enough cushions that they will not live in debilitating fear of losing everything should they fail.

None of these measures are incompatible with the kinds of things Mr Waldegrave said yesterday. Indeed, his speech confirmed that we now have a broad political agreement over the need for a free market in labour, backed with individual protection and aid. The argument is over where we find the point of balance. Security for the workforce of the future will come not from job protection or deregulation, but through creating genuinely flexible workers instead.

Could our fridges be revolting?

A paper at the British Association yesterday conjured a future in which intelligent fridges would link up with our microwaves, phones and other household gadgets and start ordering the food, storing then cooking it. One day, perhaps, fed up with the supermarket buying habits of their human owners – oh no, not that cheapo brand of margarine again – fed-up fridges would start locking us out in disgust. But how convincing are these technology horror stories? Look at all those dumb machines that fail to remember their datelines need to change on 1 January 2000. Or do we just blame their human programmers?



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Child's rights, or parent's duty to smack

Sir: While welcoming the thoughtful leading article on children's rights and corporal punishment (10 September), I am concerned that you repeat three widely held and dangerous misconceptions.

First, you suggest that the philosophy of the Children Act 1989 extended children's rights. Although the Act emerged in the context of the development of a new philosophy of children's rights by the judiciary, it did little to develop that philosophy. Parliament expressly rejected two measures that would have enhanced children's rights. It refused to give any special weight to the wishes of children and it refused to provide better protection for them against assault by their parents. Further, the courts have now retreated from those elements of the Gillick decision that went beyond welfare rights to recognise children's rights to autonomy. English law is less committed to children's rights in 1996 than it was in 1986 after the Gillick case.

The second fallacy is that children are "half-formed individuals". All parents know that their children are individuals at least from the moment they are born. They may be changing, but so are all adults. Children are already human beings and are entitled to human rights.

Third, you find it relevant that most parents think they know the difference between a blow that "hurts a child's pride and a blow that leaves a bruise". The case that is going to the European Court demonstrates the complacency of that attitude. The blows that the jury found reasonable did not stop at bruising; they were so severe that they resulted in hospital treatment. Yet our law regarded this as acceptable.

Taken together, these misconceptions enable you to argue that we are engaging in a gradual "civilising process", as if we need only wait for our society to see the light. The reality is that our society is not moving step by step towards greater recognition of children's rights. It is ambivalent and will not move unless urged. That is why we must hope that the European Court of Human Rights stands up for children.

JONATHAN MONTGOMERY
Senior Lecturer in Law
Southampton University
Highfield, Southampton

Sir: In the opening paragraph of your leading article you envisage a parent who finds his daughter near the main road she was forbidden to approach. The parent strikes the child, but this is no assault.

The authority of the parent over his child should be recognised. The greater experience of the parent gives him the right to demand that his children obey him, even if they don't understand why the command is given.

The parent, who dearly loves his daughter, must mix his relief at her safety with the righteous indignation that his informed command was ignored. It was his care for the girl which led him to give the instruction. A mild smack directs a child in the way he must go. Wanton abuse or heavy-handed "justice" from uncaring parents fall into a different category.



Upsize their tax bills

Sir: Reaction to the news that BA intends to "downsize" by 10,000 of its employees must be one of horror (report, 9 September). It is not long since the guru who started the cult of downsizing admitted that he had got it wrong.

The Government ought to introduce an additional tax against future profits which can be used to fund retraining programmes, professional job search and counselling, income support, business start-up schemes and so on for those affected. Companies would then have to take a more balanced decision about large-scale redundancies.

R STRONG
Orpington,
Kent

Launderers not welcome here

Sir: Chris Blackhurst (10, 11 September) reports on the so-called financial secrecy laws of British dependent territories' offshore centres, suggesting that they have more than "\$1 trillion in dirty money stashed away in their bank accounts".

Those British territories which have offshore finance centres are among the most stringently regulated in the world. Far from encouraging fraudsters and money launderers, the legal and financial professions recognise that their banking confidentiality laws act as a gateway to criminal investigation, not as a hindrance. Investigators

Secret power of the Eurocrats

Sir: John Lichfield ("Time for real Euro democracy", 7 September) failed to mention the biggest boog of contention between the European Parliament, which is striving for increased openness, and the secretive Council of Ministers: "commitology".

This is a Euro-word coined to describe a system where hundreds of largely secret committees have an input into all aspects of EU legislation. A typical example is the veterinary committee, recently in the headlines in relation to the embargo on British beef.

The European Parliament, via its Budget Committee, has been leading the fight for increased openness, its bargaining tool being that it controls the £16m it costs to run these committees annually.

Parliament's requests are simple: that members of these committees should make a declaration of interests and that meetings should normally be held in public. But, although half the £16m budget hangs in the balance, member states' governments still refuse to concede.

The Council is a closed shop, and until the powers that be in Westminster realise that they alone have real power to enforce change Europe will never be fully accountable.

TERRY WYNN MEP
(Merseyside East and Wigan, Lab)
European Parliament Socialist
Group Spokesperson on Budgetary
Affairs
Brussels

Boiling a kettle in the sun

Sir: Greg Leonard's letter (6 September) would save electricity but soon put scales on the uncovered section of his kettle's electric element. The correct solution is to fill the kettle so as to cover the element, use the amount required for tea, and put the rest into a vacuum flask for washing up the tea things.

Another answer is a simple solar cooker. Shaped like a satellite dish, and turned towards the sun at half-hour intervals, this boils three pints of cold water in a blackened kettle in an hour or two at no expense or addition to global warming.

JOHN WRIGHT
West Wittering, West Sussex

American way to curb big business

Sir: Hamish McRae's two proposals for the Labour Party – trust-busting and support policies for small businesses ("Small business is Labour's business", 6 September) – are most timely.

For practical guidance on both we have already suggested to the Labour Party and to the Government that they look across the Atlantic. The United States started trust-busting in the 1890s and has not stopped, reflecting its culture of support for checking corruption in giant undertakings. The US competition laws are models for Europe.

In Washington the Small Business Administration, a government department, has existed since the Second World War to ensure that there is no undue concentration of business power.

What constitutes a "small business", and as such qualifies for assistance/support, is dependent on the market sector, not just on a definition such as any manufacturing business with fewer than 500 employees. In the aircraft industry, for example, a qualifying small firm can have up to 1,500 employees.

WG POETON
The Union of Independent
Companies
London SW1

Don't leave the engine running

Sir: Fumes from all stationary vehicles with running engines are noxious, those from petrol engines with catalytic converters in less than perfect condition or not fully warmed up being particularly bad. Round here, drivers who do not switch their engines off while waiting frequently compound their antisocial behaviour by committing the actual offence of getting out of their vehicles while the engine is on.

I can assure W A White (letter, 10 September) that warm or cold, and even in the dampest of ambient conditions, a diesel always starts as instantly as switching on a light.

CONRAD CORK
Leicester

Sir: W A White complains about pollution caused by drivers leaving diesel engines running while making deliveries. As a regular user of level-crossings, I am constantly surprised by the number of drivers who leave their engines running while waiting (often for some time) for trains to cross.

Is there any reason why every level-crossing sign should not include the words "Please switch off engine while waiting"?

GRAHAM BURTON
Egham, Surrey

Political spice

Sir: Norma Major a saucy Worcester Woman? ("Cookie war", 11 September.) Quick! Hand me a large Cherie brandy before I collapse!

Deep-rooted modern Pagans

Sir: It is not so much modern Pagans who are confused as Frances H Killingley herself (letter, 7 September).

Modern Paganism may sometimes be referred to as "the country's oldest religion", but the phrase is used as a shorthand recognition of roots in pre-Christian beliefs of many varieties, rather than representing any claim to direct descent from some mythical "particular creed". One of the strengths of organisations like the Pagan Federation is tolerance of a wide spectrum of belief. Celebration of Celtic festivals alongside Anglo-Saxon ones arises not from ignorant confusion, but from respect for alternative but linked pantheistic beliefs.

To assert that "neither the ancient Britons nor the Anglo-Saxons left any record of their religious beliefs and practices" is wrong. Many early Christians may have sought to eradicate all such references, but thankfully did not entirely succeed. Your own newspaper has reported on the religious significance of archaeological finds from these eras, whilst more enlightened early Christians (such as the Icelandic Snorri Sturluson in his *Edda*) recorded pagan myths and practices for posterity.

To pretend that modern Paganism cannot legitimately call upon cultural roots more ancient than those of British Christianity is to fly in the face of reality.

JAMIE LANG
E-mail: jamie@globalnet.co.uk

Tiny targets for railway rage

Sir: I am enraged by the letter from Miguel V Arana (12 September) concerning the use of public transport by the public. If Mr Arana, who was no doubt born at the age of 18, objects to having his senses assaulted by children near him on a train, he should either get off his bottom and move to a different carriage or stay at home behind locked doors and try to grow up.

GILL SMITH
London WC2

Sir: I get irritated sitting in the same part of a train as people with very loud Walkmans, people with smelly hamburgers who make a noise as they eat, people with anti-social body odour, people snoring, intoxicated people, people who block the aisles with their bags or bikes or dogs, people who talk complete garbage in very loud voices and people who try to read over my shoulder. I realise that it would be impractical to put them all in a carriage of their own with smokers and children so I let them get on with it. And mind my own business.

LUCE CULKIN
Stevenage, Hertfordshire

Jean blues

Sir: Whilst no supermodel, with measurements of 36-25-35, I am mortified to learn that apparently I have an "odd body shape" ("Jeans have a custom-made code", 12 September), because I cannot find a pair of jeans with a perfect fit. Even so, is Eric Musgrove of *FW Magazine* suggesting that women with less than perfect bodies are not entitled to wear jeans?

Oh, for the perfect body, such as Mr Musgrove no doubt has! LINDA STREET
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire

A techno-baronial home from home

deranged nature of the people supplying us with the agenda, ie, the Government."

Is there any evidence for this derangement? Apart from the mad staring eyes of Howard, Portillo, etc?

"Well, the way they have demotised Tony Blair shows a troubled mind at work, and I don't mean Tony Blair's mind. Hurling on Mawhinney and Heston as a comic double act suggests advanced derangement. Believing that there really is an Irish peace process suggests ballooning on a large scale. Believing that you can get the EU on your side by massive non-co-operation is the act of a loony.

Oh, yes, I think we can safely assume that the disease is very advanced now. No wonder the more sane Tony MPs are actually leaving politics already....

At this point the phone rings. Professor Trepsholm answers it.

"Two more geneticists for next week's programme? I see what I can do. Mr Briggs. Thank you."

He puts the phone down.

He groans. I tiptoe away and leave him to it.

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Why we will soon be better off than the Germans

So they can sell us their pork but we can't sell them our beef. We can't work longer than a 48-hour week, and we cannot smack our children. And now we may have to pay £150m of compensation to Spanish fishermen barred from British waters. It has not been a great week for Britons concerned about loss of sovereignty to Brussels.

This little clutch of reverses did, however, have one immediate effect. It enabled the *Daily Mail*, a paper with a sinuous skill at identifying issues likely to strike a chord with its readers, to call for the Prime Minister to assert British sovereignty now, even at the risk of expulsion from the European Union.

Suddenly a debate that has been rumbling away for most of the past year - whether Britain would be better off in economic terms, outside the EU - has taken on a new and harder edge. Why is this happening now?

You can argue, of course, that we are at one of those pivotal moments of history: that if we do not make a stand now, our identity will be submerged for ever. That's the most popular argument, but it is surely rather ridiculous. Not only can Britain withdraw from the EU at some later stage if that is what people want to do; it is perfectly possible, indeed quite likely, that the EU will itself break up in the next 25 years. At the very least, the present close Franco-German relationship is going to change. So the "it's now or never" approach is to take a very myopic view of the long sweep of European history.

No, the change is surely less because Europe has become overweening (though there is something in that) and more because Britain's self-confidence has grown. Having significantly lower unemployment than any of the large EU nations is one cause; staging an earlier and more secure recovery from recession is another; and both have been achieved without a surge in inflation or a serious balance of payments deficit. Sure, there are economic problems in the UK, but suddenly, in comparison with those of continental Europe, these appear quite manageable. It is surprising what three years of decent economic growth can do to turn a mood.

True, none of this seems to have benefited the Government. But that, too, is surely unsurprising. For the economic recovery has had as much to do with the Government's failures (such as the expulsion of the pound from the Exchange Rate Mechanism) as its successes. It may even be that the support for Labour comes from a sense of economic self-confidence, a sense that the economy is now strong enough to stand a change of government, something it was not strong enough to do in 1992.

But here lies the trap. If this self-confidence is merely the result of the cyclical position of the UK economy, then it is liable to evaporate as rapidly as it did at the end of the Lawson boom. Having faster growth than the continent for three years is not nearly as important as the possibility of having faster growth for 10 or 20 years.



Hamish McRae

Our economy is on the up, whether or not we stay in Europe, whether or not the EU exists ...

Second, the British economy, more perhaps by accident than design, happens to do what will be difficult for new East Asian competitors to attack. Our manufacturing sector is quite small. But since know-how in manufacturing crosses national boundaries with astonishing speed, so it is possible for newly industrialised countries to build up manufacturing very quickly. A small but nimble manufacturing sector is an advantage, not the reverse. We are, on the other hand, very strong in things such as trade in intellectual capital. For example, in 1994, the most recent year for which comparable figures are available, Britain had a surplus of \$1.3bn on royalties and licence fees, whereas Germany (despite its reputation for high-quality education) had a deficit of \$2.4bn.

Third, we seem to have become good at creating new businesses. All over the world, large, established enterprises are shedding labour. So creating jobs will depend on creating new businesses and encouraging the growth of small ones. The success of large firms will matter enormously for the success of economies in general. But do not expect them to be net job creators. So employment growth is likely to be stronger in the UK than in most of continental Europe.

All this will change the political dynamics of Britain's relationship with Europe. It will not necessarily mean, as some Euro-haters might like to think, that Britain will feel confident enough to walk out of the EU - though that is one possibility. It may simply mean that Britain will tend to have more influence within the EU than it seems to have at the moment. Most important of all, though, it will mean that if the EU no longer happens to exist, economic life in the UK will be quite comfortable, thank you.

A Prima donna who ought to know better

by Suzanne Moore

You're very lucky that I've got time to write this at all because I'm a very busy woman you know. Places to go, people to see, cheese to freeze. You know how it is combining career, children and cable-knit jumpers all in one day. Cherie Booth certainly does and shares her thoughts as guest editor of *Prima*. Clearly she has taken the advice proffered in the magazine. October, apparently, is the month to "Look more confident", "Improve your kid's handwriting", or "play conkers" with them. Cherie may be a top QC but could she have thought of this all by herself?

Possibly her mission to appear ordinary enough for people to vote for her husband was influenced by *Prima*'s excellent advice. If there is not enough joy in your life it recommends "Making a list", and "Acting happy". "Smiling triggers happy feelings in the brain". Cherie tries out her new tight-lipped look as she sits barefoot on what looks like a fridge. She goes to tea at the Ritz with *Prima* readers, who ask her difficult questions like "How old are your children?" She is happy to be associated with a magazine that offers this imaginative time-saving tip: "Set the alarm clock 15 minutes earlier than normal and get out of bed at once. Time saved: 15 minutes."

Still, it's all in a good cause isn't it? The cause of getting the C2 female vote. If the Tories are going to wheel out Norma of the Used Tea Bags then Cherie will have to be made into Our Lady of the Nutritious Meal in Thirty Minutes.

Despite that punitive phrase, "career woman", the fact is that many women with children work. What is so threatening about Cherie that requires not just softening but airbrushing out of existence? When women are extraordinarily successful, why do we want to make them more ordinary? Surely, for men, the reverse is true. Deeply average men are prepared to mythologise themselves in order to appear extraordinary.

Does this rampant domestication of high-flying women actually do what it is designed to do in the first place? Only if we believe it. I believe that Cherie is intending to spend 20 hours knitting herself a complicated-looking sweater as much as I believe that Hillary Clinton lives for baking. In fact, while desperately trying to make these women appear less threatening, it turns them into cartoon superwomen who manage to do everything they turn their hands to, brilliantly.



Cherie Blair's mission as guest editor of 'Prima' was to appear ordinary enough for people to vote for her husband

This really is irritating because these images set yet more unrealistic standards for the rest of us. It is not enough to rush around doing it all: we now have to make it look effortless. There is no room for tiredness here, the days when you are too exhausted to make it to the microwave, never mind making a Halloween soup. Cherie relaxes in the gym, for god's sake! Making labour look invisible is of course a feminine speciality. *Prima* even advises us on how to maintain the mystery in our relationships with men. The mystery is that we still have the energy between sewing samplers and covering our homes with roses, but if we do then we are not to do certain things in front of them. We must not shave our legs in case the poor darlings finally realise that women are not born hairless. We must not eat corn on the cob - slobbering and dribbling puts them off. We must not talk to our girlfriends (it's too intimate) or admit to hangovers. I suspect breathing is probably better done in private too, but if you must insist on doing it in front of your boyfriend make sure you use home-made breath freshener.

The depressing thing is that an admirable woman like Cherie has chosen to preside over this load of cack. Powerful women must still disturb us so much that they have to shore up their femininity in the most traditional of ways. If power, in the public imagination, de-

sexes women then it must be countered with the ultimate feminine masquerade.

Yet this is a game that works to all women's disadvantage as we then all become subject to such terrible scrutiny. No wonder that our role models are more likely to be Patsy from *Ab Fab* than yet another housewife-superstar. It doesn't matter who you are: these days you had better know a trick or two with lip-liner. Camilla Parker Bowles may have a few things on her mind, but guess what, Camilla - the important thing is to brush the dog hairs off your skirt and get on some slap.

All this in the name of softening one's image, yet what we need are women who are out "hard", just truthful, for there is also a fundamental dishonesty in all this. Eveo Do-It-Alls like Cherie don't do it all by themselves. I remember once asking Edwina Currie if she ever felt guilty that she employed people to look after her children. "Goodness me," she exclaimed, "I didn't get all that education just to stay at home." In order for many of us to work, a new and largely female servant class has been created. They are the nannies, au pairs and child-minders without whom it would be difficult for many of us to manage. If we admit we need help on this score, that it is impossible to do it all, why keep up the pretence in all other areas? Guilt surfaces in the form of spurts of domestic over-compensation and the spurious notion of quality time. Men by and large seem to have escaped the urge to rush home and make jam to prove what well-rounded individuals they are.

Nor do they receive advice in men's magazines telling them not to burp, shave or slobber in public. Quite the contrary. Are we still so unused to powerful women that we must insult the intelligence of an entire gender by this ridiculous charade? Still, as long as women collude in this behaviour, wrapping themselves up in the high maintenance ideology of unquestionable femininity, rather than slobbering out just like the boys, then magazines like *Prima*, "For women who ought to know better", will sell. *Prima* has done well out of this little deal, and the Labour leadership have shown us just how low they are prepared to go with Cherie "I couldn't believe my luck" Booth. Her new sofie image puts even more pressure on the women who try to emulate it. Being soft is too much like hard work.

TED WRAGG FINDS A BOOK SHORT ON FACT AND LONG ON PREJUDICE

MELANIE PHILLIPS



ALL MUST HAVE PRIZES

THE BOOK EVERY PARENT SHOULD READ

All Must Have Prizes
By Melanie Phillips
Little, Brown £17.50

The author takes important topics and gives them a distorted analysis

Take a few prejudices. Lace them liberally with anecdotes. Add some quotes from like-minded mates. Shake them vigorously. Filter out as many facts as possible. Pour into stiff covers and serve chilled. Have you done all that? Then congratulations. You have just written Melanie Phillips's book.

The pity of it is that the author takes important topics, like education and family life, and then gives a distorted analysis of what she chronicles as the immense inadequacy of teachers and parents. Any suggestions of success, like improved exam results, are soon recast as further evidence of failure. Teachers are accused of moral relativism, propagating "the doctrine that no value or activity can be held to be any better or worse than any other".

I have met thousands of teachers in my professional life, but not a single one who holds that view. Where are these monsters who believe that murder and pillage are no better or worse than kindness and benevolence? Ms Phillips should identify them so they can be locked away. If anything, teachers are usually regarded as moral prizes by their pupils, endlessly exhorting them to behave themselves, be considerate to others, pick up litter.

The chapter headings reveal the predominant tone of the book: "The de-education of Britain", "The destruction of morality", "The disordered child". The nation, it is claimed, has gone to the dogs. Yet a third of the population now enters higher education. Even if degree standards have slipped, as we have moved from an elite to a mass system, the fact remains that thousands of children, who would have left school with no qualifications at all when fewer than 10 per cent went to university, now obtain a degree.

The selective and anecdotal nature of what passes for "evidence" is revealed in the many referenced footnotes. Of the first 18 references in one chapter, 10 are cited as "Conversation with the author", "Private correspondence with the author" or "Author's sources". A further four are from the right-wing pamphleteers Caroline Cox and John Marks.

Throughout the book, quotes from what are called "political insiders" figure promi-

nently and are used uncritically. No prizes for guessing to which political party these powerful shadows belong.

Ms Phillips tries to disarm criticisms of political bias, denying that she has "journeyed from the political left to the right". Not only the principles of her critique, however, but also the perceived villains are indistinguishable from the right-wing polemical tracts that she quotes with such uncritical approval.

Thus the influence of John Dewey, the American philosopher, was "malign, revolutionary and destructive", exactly as argued by the right-wing philosopher Anthony O'Hear, and by John Major's political adviser. Yet in *Experience and Education* Dewey insisted that teachers may have to intervene more if children are to learn from their experience. Phillips dis-

cusses such assertions as the belated apologies of someone whose ideas did not work. Academics in university education departments are among Phillips' chief villains. I found myself labelled as a trendy who ridicules the use of phonics in the teaching of reading, calling it "phobics". What a pity she could not bring herself to say that I am actually the author of *Flying Boot*, a reading scheme (Oops! we're supposed to be against schemes) which makes considerable use of phonics, or that the article she quotes was actually satirising hysterical and ill-informed journalism, not the use of phonics. Professor Tony Edwards of Newcastle University is lambasted for saying that curriculum reforms offered "ample scope for subversion". He was actually quoting a DES official. But why spoil a decent prejudice with a few facts?

Authoritarianism, of which she wants more, is viewed uncritically. Theodor Adorno's 1950 analysis *The Authoritarian Personality*, is simply put aside. It may be an imperfect analysis, but at least it tried to illuminate how civilised nations, like Germany and Italy, had unquestioningly obeyed a single dictator.

The most laughable sections of the book are those that blame educationalists for the cock-ups in testing and the national curriculum. It was actually people working in education who pointed out in advance the disasters about to happen. Julian Haviland, in his book *Take Care, Mr Baker!*, analysed nearly 12,000 replies to the 1987 national curriculum consultation document. Even though many respondents wanted a national curriculum, every single one rejected the version being put forward.

Melanie Phillips should do better than this. She is a good writer, but she prescribes rigour for others, then eschews it herself. As one critic put it, after reading *The Observer's* two-page summary of her book, "This is crap by anybody's standards." (1) Prejudices, anecdotes, distortions, followed by a lame "solution", are no substitute for proper analysis.

References:
(1) *Fat bloke in pub*, September 1996.

The author is professor of education at Exeter University.

Jarvis vs the common people

Who cares about Oasis? Jarvis Cocker is the best thing to have happened to popular music since I was 17, which is at least 21 years ago. *Different Class* was not only the best album of last year, it is one of the best ever. Anyone who thinks otherwise either hasn't listened to it, or utterly lacks taste. And anyone who thinks assertions like that are idiotically adolescent - well, that's their problem.

At least it's not the Mercury Music Prize judges' problem. Few events this summer have been more heartening than their decision to pass right by Oasis and place Jarvis on the pedestal that he would absolutely refuse to stand on. Indeed, he absolutely did refuse to stand on it - he got off, and put *War Child* on it instead.

And that's another reason why he's wonderful: he publicly gave away the winnings without pity, or self-congratulation, because that's just what he does.

Jarvis Cocker is witty, self-deprecating, human. Anyone who provokes the *News of the World* headline "JARVIS LOOKS LIKE A TRAINSPOTTER BUT HIS LOVING DROVE ME LOCO" deserves a thousand awards. A man who writes a song fantasising about how a blue plaque might mark the place he first touched a girl's breast is not only ironic, he is absurdly and humanly true about the daftness that spin around inside the heads of arrogant, foolish boys. He

remembers exactly what a prat you were at 19 - loopy, horny, embarrassed, irritating, soppy, selfish - all those things that young people actually are, but couldn't possibly admit to at the time. "Mother," he sings, "I think I left a part of my brain/somewhere in a field in Hampshire." He's stoned, and talking to his Mum!

Deflation is the English art, and Cocker is its musically poised master. That's why he humbled on to Michael Jackson's Britpop set and straitjacketed into my hero list. As he put it, "anyone setting themselves up as a messiah figure is a bit dodgy". Being touching and wry at the same moment is the quintessential Jarvis expression - with an artfully timed pause. ("Want to sleep

with Common People?/ (pause) I'll see what I can do.") But instead of adulating this modern hero, our colleagues and competitors have devoted miles of newspaper to boring Oasis. Let's get it straight. Oasis are second-rate. They are (or were) briefly amusing, catchy, derivative, noisy, poppy, and not very good. They should not be long missed. Noel Gallagher can't write a sustained lyric. Liam Gallagher is tiresome, and we've seen him all before. Most of the young people I know who really like Oasis are aged 11 and under. They'll get over it - and then they'll be free to listen to Pulp.

Colin Hughes

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Reshaping will give BTR 'more focus'

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Ian Strachan, the former KIZ executive brought in to revitalize BTR, stamped his mark on the sprawling conglomerate yesterday with a radical restructuring of the underperforming group and a 35 per cent cut in the dividend. The well-flagged moves were broadly welcomed by the City which marked the shares 7.5p higher to 273.5p.

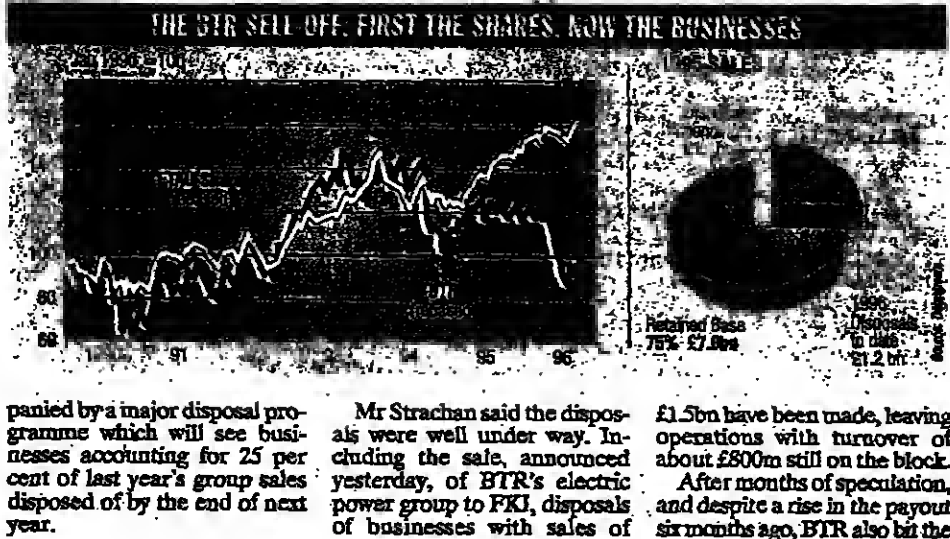
That helped to reverse a dramatic underperformance in the shares, which have fallen by a third since peaking at 407p in August 1993. During that period they have underperformed the rest of the market by almost a half.

Mr Strachan, who took over

as chief executive in April last year, said: "The major reshaping of BTR marks the start of a new era. We are focusing on the profitable growth of our core engineering and manufacturing businesses by building up those which have the best global leadership potential."

BTR's new focus sees 32 formerly autonomous businesses being grouped together in four new "global groups" - automotive systems, power drives, process controls and packaging and materials - and three smaller "global and regional groups" - specialist engineering, building products and polymeric products.

The restructuring, against which BTR has taken a provision of £349m, is to be accom-



panied by a major disposal programme which will see businesses accounting for 25 per cent of last year's group sales disposed of by the end of next year.

Mr Strachan said the disposals were well under way. Including the sale, announced yesterday, of BTR's electric power group to PKI, disposals of businesses with sales of £1.5bn have been made, leaving operations with turnover of about £800m still on the block.

After months of speculation, and despite a rise in the payout six months ago, BTR also hit the

bullet and cut its interim dividend from 5.54p to 4.0p. It also promised a reduction in the final payout from 9.15p to 5.6p.

Mr Strachan said the cut in the dividend, which had accounted for about two thirds of BTR's cash flow, would allow investment in the core businesses. He promised future growth in line with the increase in underlying earnings per share.

News of the restructuring accompanied interim profit figures showing profits before tax all but wiped out by provisions, which also included a £273m hit to cover the cost of exiting discontinued businesses. Before exceptional, profits of £626m compared with £729m in the first half of 1995.

Mr Strachan justified the dis-

Shock as Brydon quits BZW

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Donald Brydon, one of the City's best-known figures, has lost his job as deputy chief executive of BZW, 48 hours after Bill Harrison moved in as the new head of the investment bank. Mr Brydon is certain to leave with a substantial payoff from a position that is likely to have paid upwards of £300,000 a year.

He was beaten to the top job at BZW in the summer when Barclays decided to hire Mr Harrison from Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, to succeed David Band, the chief executive who died at the beginning of the year.

BZW said Mr Brydon had "agreed to leave the firm as the new team takes over".

Mr Harrison has been on three months' gardening leave, and BZW said this had given him time to think about the way he wanted to run the business, which was why he was able to announce changes at the top so soon after arriving at his desk on Tuesday. One of Mr Harrison's key decisions has been to displace with the post of deputy chief executive and instead ask the management committee to report directly to him as chief executive.

Unit trust fiasco: Suspended fund manager says he informed senior executives of companies he was buying into

Morgan knew of deals, says Young

JILL TREANOR
and NIC CICUTTI

Peter Young, the fund manager at the centre of the Morgan Grenfell fiasco, broke his silence yesterday, saying his senior managers knew about the transactions that led to the suspension of three top-performing funds last week.

Investigators are attempting to unravel a maze of Luxembourg-registered shell companies set up by the 38-year-old fund manager and assess whether he made any personal gain from his actions.

Speaking at his £450,000 house in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, Mr Young said that he went out of his way to tell senior management about the companies in which he bought shares.

But, he said his managers did not scrutinise his work because they trusted his previous performance. The funds he ran had been among the top-performing funds before sliding through the rankings earlier this year.

"People want to believe in magic, they want to believe in gurus. They don't want to look inside the box because it might spoil the trick," Mr Young said.

Morgan Grenfell froze his assets, and those of a Luxembourg company, Russ Oil & Technol-

ogy, last week. He has also had his passport confiscated and fears lawyers' fees could wipe him out.

"It seems as if we will lose everything with the lawyers' fees alone but it is one of those things in life. That's just the way it is. There are worse things that could happen. You have got to keep things in perspective. At least I still have my family," said Mr Young.

His skills as a fund manager were widely admired by many of his colleagues and business contacts before he was suspended from his job last week. One described him as "incisive and focused".

But there have also been questions about his state of mind amid reports that he was suffering from an enormous amount of stress.

Mr Young has just moved into his five-bedroom home with his wife, Harmanpa, and two children.

But investigators want to establish how he purchased the house as speculation mounted that he secured a loan against some of the funds' portfolio.

A Land Registry search shows that there is no mortgage attached to the property.

"I am worried we will lose the house. It's my pride and joy. We

have only just finished having it redecorated. I don't want to go back to a three-bed semi," Mrs Young said.

"Last week I really felt the world was crashing in on me. But he keeps coming home saying we will be all right."

Mr Young is spending a great deal of time with his solicitors, City firm Peters & Peters, and could be sacked from his job next week. Morgan Grenfell Asset Management declined to respond to the suggestions made by Mr Young.

The firm's investigators are thought to be analysing the contents of a Jersey bank account which was held in Mr Young's name, and which could hold the key to the start of any criminal investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

The account, held at Morgan Grenfell in Jersey, could show if he benefited personally from any of the complicated transactions he carried out. The SFO is being kept informed but has not begun an inquiry.

Brokers who carried out deals for Mr Young say they received confirmations of all his trades from Morgan Grenfell and also received instructions from Maurice Wheller, the custody official in Jersey.

No suspicion is attached to Mr Wheller.



Peter Young and his family: 'It seems we will lose everything with the lawyers' fees alone' Photograph: INS

Twickenham link confounds accountants

This week SlaterCast is in Twickenham, south-west London. A month ago it was in Lucerne, Switzerland. The Swedes, however, will tell you that it never left Stockholm, writes Michael Harrison.

But wherever it is, the company has never made a penny in profit. Confused? Then spare a thought for the forensic accountants trying to track the

byzantine share dealings of Peter Young.

SlaterCast, is one of the myriad high-technology stocks bought into by Mr Young's European Growth Trust. Last week, much to everyone's amazement, including that of SlaterCast, Morgan Grenfell emerged as its majority 58 per cent shareholder.

Though listed on the Stock

exchange, SlaterCast's head offices are on the ninth floor of an office block half a mile from Twickenham rugby ground.

It moved there from Lucerne at the beginning of August to be nearer its markets. The company, which was founded by two Swedish entrepreneurs in 1983, has developed a patented process used in the manufacture of cast iron

products mainly for the car industry.

Hyundai of Korea has signed an agreement to evaluate the process and SlaterCast has installed its system in a large US foundry but executives will cheerfully tell you it has never made a profit in 15 years. In 1995 it lost 65m Swedish crowns (£6.3m) on sales of 766,000 crowns but that never daunted Mr Young.

Gokal's trickery kept BCCI over a barrel, court told

A cheating tycoon had the Bank of Credit and Commerce International "over a barrel" after he allegedly tricked it into bankrolling his business empire, an Old Bailey jury heard today.

Anthony Hacking QC, prosecuting, said that anything Abbas Gokal, 60, "touched turned into losses". He fed BCCI false information to ensure it kept paying his debts.

BCCI deposited itself to such

a huge extent keeping Mr Gokal's shipping and trading empire afloat that if it went into liquidation the consequences for the bank would have been "terrible", said counsel, who added: "He had them over a barrel."

It is alleged that Mr Gokal, in a massive international fraud with top BCCI officials, defrauded the bank's depositors out of \$1.2bn (£774m). BCCI was closed in July 1991 by the

Bank of England and this also meant the end of Mr Gokal's business - the Gulf Group.

The huge scale of the fraud, the biggest ever to be brought to court, then became apparent.

Counsel said in 1985 BCCI began pressing Mr Gokal to scale down his losses as it was having trouble keeping the bank's auditors at bay and disguising the huge hole in the accounts.

Notes from a meeting between BCCI officials and Mr Gokal were read to the court.

A bank official tells Mr Gokal: "You have wronged and hurt us a lot. How can you sleep at night? You are continually blackmailing us. Your demands continue to average £1m a day. These are not our funds. They have to be returned."

"For God's sake do something about it. You have such a

callous attitude. If this thing explodes everyone will be affected. I am fed up, at my wit's end. Never in my life have I known such a fiasco."

The official said Mr Gokal had given the bank "false and misleading" information which hoodwinked it into helping him.

The court heard that Mr Gokal had created a huge fraudulent business empire.

"The Crown say that Mr

Gokal used vast sums he defrauded to sustain his lavish lifestyle around the world to provide personal benefit and gain for himself and his close family," said counsel.

Mr Gokal, a Pakistani, who was based in London and Geneva, denies conspiracy to account falsely and conspiracy to defraud between January 1985 and July 1987.

"Millions of dollars were

flowing back and forth between Mr Gokal's companies and BCCI. There were a large number of companies through which the funds flowed. He misused ordinary employees and duped them into signing false documents to deceive on a massive scale," counsel said.

He went on: "There was an elaborate system of co-operation between him and BCCI."

The hearing continues.

Other key appointments to the management committee are Bob Diamond, who joined in July from CS First Boston as chief executive of global markets, and Steve Harker, who becomes chief executive of equities, replacing Jonathan Davis, who is to become full-time deputy chairman of BZW.

David Cannon, finance director and Sally Bott, head of human resources, also join the management committee.

Business warned of millennium

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Dire warnings of a global computer crash were made by the Government yesterday, unless boardroom executives urgently got to grips with the software implications of the year 2000 date change.

Taskforce 2000, the independent group set up to tell businesses about the problem, said firms had just a year-and-a-half before it would be too late. The cost to UK businesses alone has been estimated at £15bn, with

larger firms expected to spend tens of millions each.

The difficulties arise because most computer systems only register the last two digits of the century number is a "19". When the millennium arrives many programmes will not be able to cope with the date change. At best some computers would need re-programming, at worst whole networked systems could crash altogether.

In addition, simple computer chips in everyday appliances have the date encoded and may

cease to function. Retailers were already finding their systems had rejected products with sell-by dates of more than 2000 because the computer assumed they were almost a 100-years old.

The Taskforce would be writing to all British utility companies to ask what action they had taken. "This is not an IT problem, it's more of a business management problem," said Ian Taylor, Minister of Science and Technology at the DTI.

"The idea that it can be left to IT managers is seriously misguided," he continued.

Mr Taylor defended the Government's grant to the Taskforce of just £170,000, which he described as "seedcorn money". The group, which has set itself a target of making firms aware of the problem by next spring, has to raise extra funds from the private sector.

Yet, so far, most company directors have little or no understanding of the problem. Robin Guenier, the Taskforce director, said: "It's just a question of leadership... there is remarkably little time to do it. It is very very urgent and very very serious."



James Gulliver dies aged 66

JOHN WILLOCK

James Gulliver, one of the leading Scottish businessmen of his generation, died yesterday morning, aged 66. His death comes 10 years after the Guinness affair which did so much to damage his reputation.

Jimmy Gulliver, a colourful character from Campbelltown, Strathclyde, built the Safeway supermarket chain into one of Britain's most successful food retailers in the 1980s.

The turning-point in his career came in 1985 when he and his two close colleagues in the

Argyll Group, Sir Alistair Grant and David Webster, launched an ambitious bid for Distillers, the Scottish whisky group.

Guinness, then headed by Ernest Saunders, won the bid in a controversial and, later to be proved, illegal manner. Mr Saunders ended up in jail.

During the bid the Guinness camp unearthed the fact that Mr Gulliver's claim to having completed an MBA at Harvard was false. Mr Gulliver lost the trust of his board, and was

ousted out of Argyll soon after. The banks subsequently backed him in a £450m bid for Lowndes Queensway, the carpet retailer, but the acquisition went sour with the recession, and he left the company in 1990.

Mr Gulliver was married four times, and maintained a Regency mansion in Edinburgh as well as apartments in Chelsea, Marbella and Cannes.

He was also a director of Manchester United and Heart of Midlothian football clubs.

STOCK MARKETS

FT-SE 100

Dow Jones

Nikkei

Three line graphs: a graph of 1989 losses

FTSE World Stock Index

Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1988 High	1988 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	2932.80	+27.00	+0.7	3932.80	3632.30	3.97
FTSE 250	4432.30	+14.00	+0.3	4569.60	4015.30	3.36
FTSE 350	1995.40	+11.90	+0.6	1995.40	1616.60	3.84
FT Small Cap	2179.38	+2.08	+0.1	2244.36	1954.08	3.03
FT All Share	1941.90	+11.08	+0.6	1941.90	1791.95	3.78
New York	5788.21	+33.20	+0.6	5778.00	5092.94	2.24
Taipei	20443.93	-127.11	-0.6	22696.80	19734.70	0.77
Hong Kong	11251.72	+15.36	+0.1	11394.89	10204.67	3.48
Frankfurt	2570.32	+3.52	+0.1	2583.49	2253.36	1.90

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	
1 Month	1 Year	1 Year	1 Month	1 Year	1 Year
5.75	6.08	7.84	7.75	7.97	7.85
5.44	6.13	9.95	6.10	7.04	6.46
0.38	0.89	2.93	2.83		
3.17	3.25	6.28	6.46	7.05	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES					
Name	Price	Change	Name	Price	Change
Canada	249.5	28.5	TLS	109.5	57
European Plc	112.5	11	London Clubs	274.5	12
David Bull	655	55	Clark (Hawthorn)	349.5	12

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	Pound	Yen	DM
1.5553	+0.006	1.8485	1.5553	+0.006	1.8485
1.5545	-0.006	1.8472	1.5545	-0.006	1.8472
1.5518	+0.006	1.8494	1.5518	+0.006	1.8494
1.5512	+0.006	1.8485	1.5512	+0.006	1.8485
1.5512	+0.006	1.8485	1.5512	+0.006	1.8485

OTHER INDICATORS					
Oil Brent	28.84	+1.08	16.99	153.1	+2.10
Gold	382.05	-1.60	385.80	107.9	+0.40
Gold	245.04	-1.13	249.34	Base Rates	-5.75pc

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business

British Gas plans price cuts in the South-west

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

British Gas is considering slashing prices later this year for hundreds of thousands of domestic customers in the South-west of England, in an attempt to fend off competition from rival independent suppliers.

The cuts, which would be made in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset where trials of residential competition are underway, would mean customers would enjoy lower bills from British Gas than elsewhere in Britain.

Roy Gardner, the chief executive designate of British Gas Energy, the gas supply business which is soon to be hived off, said yesterday: "We have a whole range of pricing options that we are currently considering". Full domestic competition is not planned for the whole of the UK until 1998, with further trials in the South of England starting in the new year.

British Gas said its license with the watchdog, Ofgas, prevented such price adjustments until competition had been "deemed" to have been "established", though the precise meaning of this phrase was unclear.

Mr Gardner said in his view this could happen in the South-west by November, when the trial would have been in progress for six months. Out of 500,000 households involved, around 75,000 customers, or 15 per cent, have switched to rival companies. Independent firms have offered price discounts of up to 25 per cent to tempt potential customers.

Separately, Mr Gardner gave an ambitious commitment to "solve" British Gas's customer service problems by the end of the year. At the group's results, announced yesterday, it emerged that it had spent £40m in the first six months of the year trying to sort out the difficulties.

British Gas shares gained 0.5p to 199.5p.

sceptical that the commitment could be met. Complaints rose by 30 per cent in the first seven months of the year to 26,164. In July they were up by 170 per cent, partly because of teething problems with British Gas's new national computer system.

"I would be very impressed if they achieve this and I certainly wouldn't bet on it. You just can't wave a magic wand and get trained people," Mr Powe explained.

It was disclosed that 5,500 staff took voluntary redundancy between January and June, costing the company £380m, an average of more than £69,000 for each employee. However, these costs had already been written off in a previous restructuring provision.

"More people have volunteered to leave the company than we had anticipated and have left faster than expected," said the finance director, Philip Hampton. Yet British Gas had to take on 1,200 temporary staff to help deal with the deluge of telephone complaints.

Pre-tax profits in the first half of the year, on a current cost basis, fell by 11.5 per cent to £715m. The boost from last winter's cold weather was wiped out by losses on long-term take-or-pay contracts to buy gas at well above the current market price. This helped to push the industrial gas division £180m into the red, with losses of £400m expected by the end of the year.

Richard Giordano, the chairman, said he was hopeful the first "two or three" take-or-pay contracts could be renegotiated soon, but admitted progress had been "painstakingly slow".

The interim dividend was held at 6.4p, with Mr Giordano blaming the continuing uncertainty over the Ofgas price controls proposed for the pipeline business, Transco. He said no decision had been made about whether to refer the dispute to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

British Gas shares gained 0.5p to 199.5p.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

BaE flourishes all alone

The tantalising prospect of a merger between the two monoliths of the domestic defence industry, British Aerospace and GEC, may ultimately be what investors have in their gun sights but for now BaE is doing just fine on its own.

Shorn of Rover and with its commercial aircraft division responding slowly to treatment, BaE is somewhere close to firing on all cylinders.

The turboprop aircraft market may still be in the doldrums, even after the demise of Fokker took out a slug of unwanted capacity. But the military market is recovering strongly from the Cold War hiatus while Airbus, once the whipping boy of BaE, is probably turning in annual profits for the group in the region of between £80m and £100m.

The 38 per cent jump in pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits for the half-year to 30 June, is testimony to the recovery in BaE's civil aircraft markets and the pre-election spending spree that Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, has enthusiastically embarked on.

The strengthening, meanwhile, in the balance sheet, with some £511m in net cash sloshing around at the half-year mark is largely the result of the windfall from the flotation of Orange, in which BaE retains a 22 per cent stake.

But the contribution of the management team, led by Sir Dick Evans, chief executive, and Richard Laphorne, finance director, cannot be over-estimated. Cost controls have been improved, working capital squeezed and the nettle finally grasped of BaE's yawning lease recourse exposure in commercial aircraft.

What of the future? The official line is that George Simpson, himself an ex-BaE man, will be too busy getting to grips with GEC to spare time for merger talks in the next 12 months. But the deeper BaE gets into the prime contractor role of defence systems integration the more obvious be-

come the overlaps and the synergies with GEC. In the meantime it has the rest of Europe to go for. The merger of BaE's missiles business with those of the French group Matra is the shape of things to come. While BaE may have its own grand design for European defence integration, it may have to be opportunistic in what else it bolts on. The shares, up another 37p to 1,049.5p, have performed heroics but with talk of a break-up value of £14 they may still have some way to go. Profits of £450m this year and £550m next put the shares on a forward multiple of 15, falling to 12. Still worth a shot.

Jury still out on United Biscuits

Harry Enfield, Jane Asher and Linda McCartney have all been enlisted recently by United Biscuits, the McVities biscuits and KP macs group, in an attempt to win the high-stakes battle of the brands with rivals such as PepsiCo. It is not clear that it will be enough to placate the City.

UB's shares, banished from the FTSE 100, recently hit an 11-year low of 200p, having halved in just three years. In 1995, UB reported its first loss and cut the dividend. Selling the main culprit, loss-making Keebler in the US, and closing operations in Spain resulted in a one-off hit of £150m.

Yesterday's interims were a more mundane affair. Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profits almost doubled to £44.9m while the dividend was held at 3.5p. Operating profits in the UK rose 15 per cent to £42.3m, but profits fell in the Asia-Pacific region to £2.2m from £5.6m as the Australian division came under attack from PepsiCo.

UB's aim is to grow by getting the best

out of its remaining businesses and by keeping costs down. To this end it has set ambitious internal targets. By the end of 1998 it aims to have lifted return on capital from a moving average of 14.5 per cent to 25 per cent, while increasing operating margins from 6.5 to 8 per cent.

Setting goals is one thing, meeting them is altogether different. While chief executive Eric Nicoli stressed that the interims were "relatively uneventful", management has an unhappy knack of upsetting the market and it will take at least another set of figures before the jury returns with an acquittal verdict.

To the meantime, Merrill Lynch's middle-of-the-range forecasts assume pre-tax profits of £109m rising to £123m in 1997. That puts the shares, up 10p to 212.5p, on a forward P/E ratio of 15 falling to 13. High enough.

Copper plunge nails RTZ profits

RTZ could have wished for a more propitious six months to announce its first results since the mining giant's December merger with CRA, a former Australian associate. The Sumitomo scandal, combined with a strong Australian dollar and problems at the huge new smelter being commissioned at the Kennecott business in the US, has driven a copper nail through first-half profits.

The figures are complicated by the fact that the new RTZ-CRA maintains separate share quotations in London and Sydney, and new reports in US dollars. Reported pre-tax profits slumped from £1,020m (£540m) to \$891m in the six months to June, which after stripping out an exceptional write-down last time, translated into a 22 per cent fall in net earnings to \$552m.

The main problem for RTZ has been the collapse in metal prices in the wake of Sumitomo, especially copper, which last year accounted for just over half pre-tax profits. Down 13 per cent in the first half, the fall in copper, along with aluminium and molybdenum prices, wiped \$194m from the bottom line, with the higher Australian dollar taking a further \$34m.

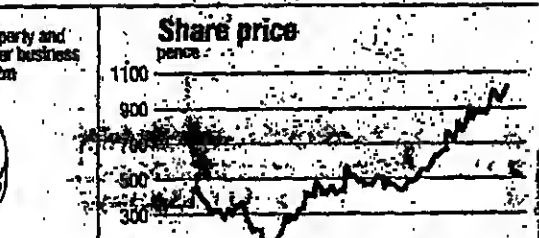
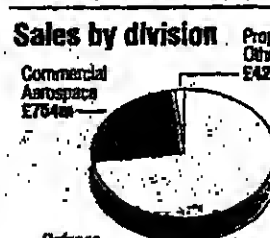
The hostile market environment was exacerbated by operational difficulties. The failure of equipment and an explosion have set back full commissioning of Keonco's Garfield smelter for Bingham Canyon copper production by around five months, hitting earnings by around \$100m.

The group remains bullish about copper, and world economic growth appears to be picking up. That confidence was good for a 30p rise in the shares to 955p yesterday, putting them on a forward multiple of 18, assuming net profits for RTZ of £740m this year. With other output coming on stream around the world, that looks high enough.

BRITISH AEROSPACE: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £4,350m, share price 1049.5p

	1993	1994	1995	1995	1996
Five year record					
Pre-tax profits (£m)	182.4	208	234	114	199
Dividends per share (pence)	6.3	10	12.5	5	6.25



Sir Rocco Forte survives a close encounter of the journalist kind

BUSINESS & PEOPLE

Sir Rocco Forte has his offices in the same building as PR company Brunswick. Yesterday, a horde of journalists taking the lift to Brunswick's fifth-floor office to hear United Biscuits' presentation were delighted when Sir Rocco got into their lift.

The lifts are not large in the building in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, and the hotelier was literally nose-to-nose with the writers.

The journalists, delighted at their opportunity for an impromptu question session, asked Sir Rocco what he thought about the Thistle Hotels deal and much else besides. A tanned, relaxed Sir Rocco said he had been following the Thistle deal with interest in the papers, but just then the lift doors opened for the conference.

Little did United Biscuits realise that it risked a mass defection from its presentation, as many journalists wanted to hear more from Sir Rocco. Perhaps Brunswick should move to a new building, in order to avoid the risk of being upstaged in future.

John Towers, who resigned as chief executive of Rover

because of unhappiness with new owner BMW, has just joined two boards: that of B Elliott, the engineering company, and the investment advisory board of Hambro European Ventures.

More press conference shenanigans. Chris Webb, head press officer at Ofgas, turned up at British Gas's swish results conference at the QEII Centre in Westminster yesterday, to the consternation of the hosts. Ofgas isn't exactly favour of the smooth with British Gas and one senior executive hurried out: "What the hell is he doing here?" As the British Gas hordes muttered indignantly about the interloper, it transpired that some wondering had invited Mr Webb. No doubt memos will be flying today.

Andrew Knight, the man who outraged Conrad Black when he moved from the Telegraph group to Rupert Murdoch's rival empire, has picked up a new executive directorship at Home Counties Newspaper Holdings.

HCNH publishes free newspapers. Last month Emap sold its 24.5 per cent stake in HCNH to another company of which Mr Knight is a non-exec, Rothschild Investment Trust Capital Partners (RITCP).

A fellow RITCP director, Duncan Budge, has also joined the HCNH board. RITCP has assured the newspaper group that it wants to "work closely together as partners". Mr Knight was unavailable for comment yesterday - he was in Yorkshire attending his mother's birthday party.

Sir Derek Birkin is standing down as chairman of RTZ at the end of the year, but he isn't looking for any other big companies to run. Yesterday Mr Birkin insisted he "wants to be nearer the front line in a smaller company, nothing to do with mining, but still industrial". Any offers?

MSL, the recruitment consultant that selected the first British astronaut, Helen Sharman, has just issued its

pathfinder prospectus for an AIM listing. Garry Long, chairman of MSL, bought the company out of Saatchi & Saatchi four years ago, and is looking to float it for £7.5m. Whether MSL achieves lift-off or gets lost in space remains to be seen.

The Office of Fair Trading has refused a consumer credit licence to a company because the public confuses the offending firm with... the Office of Fair Trading.

The OFT has ruled that the name of the firm, Fair Trades, has "misled consumers into confusing it with the Office of Fair Trading". Fair Trades Limited, of 6a The Quadrant, Holyoke, Wirral, was first refused a consumer credit licence in July 1992 when the OFT's officer "concluded that the trading style of Fair Trades Limited is misleading and/or otherwise undesirable" within the meaning of the Act.

Trading names used by the company include Fair Trades Advisory Bureau, Fair Trades Organisation, Fair Trades Better Business Guide/Bureau, and Fair Trades. It's a fair cop.



John Willcock Centre stage: Sir Rocco Forte was besieged in a lift

IN BRIEF

John Laing feels good about future

John Laing said first-half pre-tax profits dropped to £8.8m from £9.7m a year before, but shares in construction rose sharply on an upbeat trading statement. "The elusive feel-good factor seems to be returning," said John Laing, chairman. "I believe that the prospects for our business are more promising than they have been for some years." Earnings per share dropped from 6.7p to 5.8p but the 3p dividend was held. Laing is in talks for the M40 road contract and a hospital in Norwich.

Market boost for Wilson Connolly

Wilson Connolly, the housebuilder, declared a maintained interim dividend at 1.36p despite pre-tax profits falling from £10m to £8m in the six months to June. Lynn Wilson, the chairman, said the improvement in the housing market in the south of England had continued into the summer, with reservations 20 per cent ahead of last year.

PIA speaks out on regulations

The Personal Investment Authority yesterday published the first of a series of proposals for streamlining the regulations governing the sales of financial products. Joe Palmer, chairman of the PIA, said the aim was to achieve more effective regulation. The PIA document questioned whether investor protection was the best way to describe its activities because the phrase carried the two "unhelpful connotations" that it offered protection from risk, which regulators could not do, and protection from sellers.

Legal & General 'will not merge'

David Prosser, chief executive of Legal & General, ruled out purchasing or merging with another insurance company as he announced better-than-expected first-half operating profits of £134.3m, compared with £111.1m last year. Mr Prosser also said that L&G may gain business as a result of Morgan Grenfell's problems with its unit trusts. The interim dividend was raised by 13.6 per cent to 8.75p per share. The half-year produced a big increase in new business, especially in life and pensions, where operating profit rose to £103.4m from £70.1m a year ago. General insurance profit fell to £9.7m from £24.1m a year earlier.

Fee income rises at accountants

Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants and management consultants, saw UK gross fee income rise 6 per cent in the year 1995-96, from £659m to £701m, with corporate finance and management consulting both reporting double-digit growth. Peter Smith, the chairman, said the firm was considering whether to respond to rising law claims by incorporating or converting to a limited liability partnership.

Factory gate prices help bond market

Prices at the factory gate rose 0.3 per cent in the US last month due to higher food and energy cost. But "core" producer prices, excluding these two volatile components, fell by 0.1 per cent. Core prices were only 1.4 per cent higher than a year earlier. The fact that the figures were better than expected helped the Treasury bond market even though many economists still believe that the Federal Reserve will raise US interest rates later this month.

Staff shortage in maritime industry

London's maritime industry contributes £1bn-£2bn to the balance of payments surplus, according to British Invisibles. The group, which promotes exports of services, said the industry employed at least 10,000 people. This covers maritime insurance, the Baltic Exchange, the freight futures market Biffex, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, legal work on shipping disputes and international agencies such as the International Maritime Organisation. British Invisibles predicts a shortage of people with the skills to work in the maritime industry within five to 10 years.

Cider stands up to alcopops

HP Bulmer, maker of the Strongbow and Woodpecker cider brands, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that sales of its premium packaged ciders had grown by 8 per cent in the four months since its financial year started in May. Esmood Bulmer, chairman, said: "Our cider sales in the UK compare reasonably well with last year's buoyant and very hot summer. Alcopops have established a significant presence in the drinks market, but we remain encouraged that our brands have shown resilience in the face of this new sector which competes with a wide variety of alcoholic drinks." Bulmer's statement followed a profits warning earlier this week from Matthew Clark, a rival cider maker, which blamed the new alcopop drinks for a slump in sales of its own premium packaged ciders.

UK clothing industry jobs at risk

Union leaders yesterday warned that up to 50,000 jobs in the clothing, textile and footwear industry are in imminent danger of being "exported" to the Third World. The warning of a "crisis" in the sector, which employs around 400,000 people, followed the announcement of job losses and plans to shift production at Coats-Vivella, Clarendon, Dewhirst, Baird, Peter Black and other leading manufacturers, the unions said. Production has been moving to the Far East, Indian Ocean and North Africa, where production costs are significantly lower.

Olivetti still on the critical list

Olivetti "neither wants, nor will it ask for, state aid" to help it out of its current crisis, managing director Francesco Caio told the Italian Senate Industry Committee on Wednesday. Mr Caio was speaking 24 hours after a cabinet office communiqué described as "pure fantasy" press reports that Prime Minister Romano Prodi had discussed a public buy-out with the troubled computer maker's honorary chairman, Carlo De Benedetti. In his statement to the committee, Mr Caio admitted that Olivetti was "still in a critical situation", and described results as "strongly negative" and "far from a minimum acceptable point of equilibrium".

Gloomy outlook for lighting group

Shares in TLG, the light-gauge group spun off recently from Thorn EMI, plunged 61p to 109.5p after the company warned that profits in the six months to June were likely to fall to between £8m and £8.5m from £11.5m in the same period last year. The fall sent the shares below the 115p at which they floated in November 1994. The stark announcement shocked the City, despite earlier warnings by the company that short-term performance could be hit by a mixed outlook in its European markets.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
ADP (Q)	340m (401m)	0.7m (7.1m)	0.2p (0.16p)	1p (1p)
Bechtel (Q)	40.9m (37.1m)	0.04m (4.07m)	0.8p (1.07p)	0.5p (0.5p)
British Aerospace (Q)	2,822m (2,836m)	199m (174m)	31.2p (12.5p)	6.25p (6p)
British Petroleum (Q)	30.1m (28.9m)	1.32m (1.28m)	4.19p (2.55p)	1.35p (1.2p)
BT (Q)	4,500m (4,850m)	4.0m (728m)	-0.9p (12.5p)	4p (5.54p)
Capital City (Q)	29.3m (22.6m)	7.24m (11.1m)	4.79p (7.31p)	2.125p (2.125p)
Carphone (Q)	1,000m (1,030m)	81.3m (80.2m)	7.2p (8.4p)	2.3p (2.3p)
Circle K (Q)	3.61m (3.53m)	0.70m (0.51m)	6.01p (6.16p)	n/a (n/a)
First Call Group (Q)	23.8m (21.8m)	2.89m (4.35m)	7.8p (7.2p)	n/a (n/a)
Hall Engineering (Q)	120m (79.8m)	5.3m (2.4m)	8.2p (7.41p)	3.775p (3.775p)
Jaysa Group (Q)	66.1m (66.3m)	1.1m (0.3m)	2.9p (0.9p)	n/a (n/a)
Landstar Howard (Q)	44.9m (29.7m)	0.79m (0.64m)	4.4p (3.7p)	2.25p (2.25p)
Legal & General (Q)	- (-)	1.51m (1.8m)	16.0p (17.1p)	8.75p (7.7p)
Logica (Q)	293m (250m)	24.7m (20.2m)	27.1p (21.7p)	7.2p (6.25p)
Rawdon Holdings (Q)	21.5m (17.3m)	1.28m (1.25m)	2.18p (2.18p)	1.15p (1.15p)
Recreation (Q)	1.64m (-)	-1.90m (4.51m)	-3.2p (1.4p)	- (-)
Scottish TV (Q)	52.2m (49.8m)	10.3m (7.4m)	11.5p (10.3p)	5.5p (4p)
Spirax-Sarco (Q)	136m (122m)	21.8m (19.1m)	16.9p (14.8p)	4.5p (4p)
Pacific Media (Q)	0.58m (1.01m)	-0.24m (4.31m)	-0.02p (4.31p)	n/a (-)
United Biscuits (Q)	1,050m (1,550m)	42.3m (57.9m)	8.5p (4.4p)	3.5p (-)
United News & Media (Q)	1,040m (945m)	180m (112m)	16.2p (16.2p)	8p (-)
Frank House (Q)	21.6m (22.3m)	2.02m (2.05m)	18.1p (18.7p)	11p (10p)

(Q) = Quarterly (M) = Monthly

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DATA BANK

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



□ Hanover International, the fledgling hotel group run by Peter Eyles, which recently splashed out £40m for six hotels, should lift profits from £800,000 this year to £3.3m next year with £4.3m sight for 1998, says stockbroker Greig Middleton.

[illegible]

Buyers line up for United titles

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

United News & Media, Lord Hollick's media company, has received as many as 20 expressions of interest for its 47 southern regional newspaper titles, worth about £60m, it emerged yesterday.

The "significant" level of interest, said Lord Hollick, the Labour peer, said as he unveiled the company's first set of results since the controversial merger of MAI and Lord Stevens' United Newspapers in April. UNM is now putting together an information memorandum, to be sent to all registered potential buyers. Of these, both Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers and Trinity, the regional newspaper company, are expected to lead the pack.

Pre-tax profits at UNM climbed 21.5 per cent to £15.1m in the six months to June, on a



Lord Hollick says interest is 'significant'

pro-forma basis, reflecting the effects of the merger. The star performers were business services and broadcasting, taking in the ITV franchises Anglia Television and Meridian. Turnover rose 10 per cent to £1.04bn.

Lord Hollick said the results showed "significant progress" in integrating the television and newspaper companies. He expected to identify further opportunities for cross promotion between the newspaper titles,

including the Express and United Provincial Newspapers, and the group's commercial television operations.

Lord Hollick said it was too early to judge the effects of a restructuring of the Daily and Sunday Express titles, which are to be merged into a seven-day operation. "The titles have been starved of investment," he said, adding that the new structure would allow the editorial product to be enhanced, but at the cost of 85 jobs.

In the future, Lord Hollick said, the group would concentrate on being market leaders in key sectors, including the lucrative consumer publishing and business services operations in the US, as well as broadcasting and television and film production. He expected a £225m joint venture theme park, being developed with US giant Time Warner, to open toward the end of next year, subject to planning approval.

The Keynesians are fighting back. A campaign is being waged, mainly within the Labour Party, against what has become the policy consensus on the causes of and cures for unemployment. It is taking place under the cover of obscurity provided by the debate about the European single currency and its effect on jobs.

At an Employment Policy Institute seminar this week, Christopher Allsopp, an economist from New College, Oxford, delivered a rousing attack on the notion that most European unemployment is due to structural problems rather than deficient demand. This notion is gaining ground rapidly among Continental politicians who observe that the deranged British labour market, finally seems to be fulfilling its jobs promise. This week's figures showed that claimant unemployment had fallen to a five-and-a-half year low, having declined in 40 out of the past 44 months.

The new orthodoxy therefore holds that the solution to mass unemployment requires deregulation, lower social costs for employers, greater competition, greater flexibility in the workforce and so on. An attempt to create jobs by stimulating the economy with extra government spending would be inflationary. It would also undermine the necessary progress on cutting budget deficits enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr Allsopp's broadside begins with the reasonable observation that the pre-Maastricht policies risk creating a vicious circle. Slow growth leads to higher unemployment, a bigger government deficit – and the hunt for spending cuts that will slow growth even further.



ECONOMIC VIEW
DIANE COYLE

The Maastricht deficit criteria are certainly being interpreted too strictly. The blanket 3 per cent of GDP ceiling does not make any allowance for the part of the budget deficit linked solely to the state of the economic cycle. With some potential EMU members clamping down on government spending when their economies are weak the results could be counter-productive. It would make more sense to have a cyclically-adjusted target.

growth. Professor Morris's top policy recommendation is faster growth to be achieved by the payment of a higher wage for the low paid and lower interest rates. He also favours higher state, and a more generous welfare state, to alleviate the situation of the underclass. He agrees that the pre-single currency focus on budget retrenchment has compounded the problem of slow growth, and admires Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his lack of con-

than national income rises. This does not mean there is no room for debate about taking a more relaxed attitude to demand management. But it does make the "orthodox" uncomfortable with the view that budget deficits will go away if only the government spurs growth.

As for whether more government spending would cut unemployment, it does not look promising that almost all of the job creation on the Continent since 1980 has been in the public sector, yet unemployment remains an appalling high 11 per cent on average. The OECD figures have, incredibly, a higher countries have, incredibly, a higher public sector than the former planned economies and far more than the rich countries of Latin America (8 per cent versus 7 per cent and 3 per cent respectively). Would the jobs rate be any lower if public sector employment were even more extensive?

The trouble with seeking to revive the policies dating from the 1970s is that the experience of the 1980s and 1990s has intervened. The structure of the economy has changed. The deindustrialisation that followed the oil price shocks has taken place – spending on public sector jobs will not recreate the lost parts of manufacturing industry that the Maa-

It is one thing to argue that over-riding criteria are being over-ridingly interpreted and risk perpetuating slow growth on the Continent. It is quite another to use this as cover for suggesting a return to "tax and spend" more generally. It is going to be hard for the Keynesians to storm the citadel.

How To Save The Underclass, by Robin Morris, to be published by Macmillan.

The notion that old-fashioned policies will work in the 1990s has a nostalgic appeal

However, the Keynesian counter-attack goes much further. Mr Allsopp denies the "orthodox" contention that government deficits are a problem at all, arguing that the size of the hole in government finances across Europe is caused by slow growth and high unemployment. Deficits are reacting passively to events elsewhere in the economy. The key to solving unemployment, and reducing the deficit, is therefore to stimulate private sector investment.

This view is echoed in a forthcoming book by Robin Morris, *How To Save The Underclass*. It too diagnoses the cause of the unemployment problem as slow

cern about the public sector borrowing requirement.

The notion that old-fashioned demand management policies will work in the 1990s has a nostalgic appeal. But the argument that government deficits are just the result of slow growth and will vanish if growth increases is and will vanish if growth increases is flawed. The key problem is that the parts of government spending that have mushroomed have been not mainly cyclical unemployment and social security payments but mainly structural spending on pensions, health and education. These are the luxury goods of the public sector – demand for them increases faster

Upbeat statement lifts Caradon

PATRICK TOOHER

Shares in Caradon hit a 12-month high yesterday as the building products and cheque-printing group published better-than-expected results and gave an upbeat trading statement.

Pre-tax profits in the six

months to June fell from £90.2m to £81.3m, but analysts focused on the 32 per cent improvement in the second half of last year and the prospect of more cost savings to come. The shares rose 28.5p to 249.5p on the news.

Caradon said cost savings of £30m had been achieved in the

first half and the target of £50m for the year would be exceeded. Peter Jansen, chief executive, said he hoped to conclude the sale of Caradon's non-core engineering and distribution subsidiaries and the disposal of its UK-based automotive plastics division by the end of the year.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	155.53	5.3	5.3	100	2.1	2.0	2.0
Canada	2.25	11.3	50.37	137.0	29.26	86.63	100.00
France	6.54	58.46	150.142	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Germany	16.24	61.46	157.357	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Italy	237.63	49.63	142.166	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Japan	17.06	75.70	225.228	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
ECU	16.24	51.1	142.166	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Belgium	48.46	11.3	45.40	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Netherlands	26.53	65.57	187.174	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Ireland	0.3667	7.3	20.14	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Norway	10.75	10.50	31.36	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Sweden	10.35	0.6	1.9	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Switzerland	19.24	54.46	156.152	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Australia	1.926	20.31	67.65	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Hong Kong	10.26	10.61	224.107	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Malaysia	3.98	0.1	0.1	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
New Zealand	2.234	43.57	133.55	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Singapore	2.182	0.0	0.0	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	155.53	5.3	5.3	100	2.1	2.0	2.0
Australia	1.926	20.31	67.65	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Brazil	1.561	10.50	31.36	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Canada	2.25	11.3	50.37	137.0	29.26	86.63	100.00
China	8.28	10.50	31.36	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Denmark	6.54	58.46	150.142	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
France	6.54	58.46	150.142	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Germany	16.24	61.46	157.357	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Greece	209.26	49.63	142.166	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
India	37.62	11.3	45.40	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418
Indonesia	155.53	5.3	5.3	100	2.1	2.0	2.0
Israel	0.4669	0.001	0.001	135.92	79.73	220.20	3.418

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rates quoted low to high are at a premium. *Dollar rates quoted as bid rates. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 323 3033. Calls cost 36p per minute (excl. VAT) 44p other times.

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	France	5.00%	Japan	0.50%
UK	5.75%	Italy	5.00%	Spain	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%
Netherlands	2.50%	Sweden	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%
Australia	5.75%	Canada	5.00%	South Africa	5.00%	India	5.00%

Bond Yields

Country	10yr	5yr	3yr	1yr	Country	10yr	5yr	3yr	1yr
US	7.1%	6.1%	5.1%	4.1%	UK	7.1%	6.1%	5.1%	4.1%
Germany	5.1%	4.1%	3.1%	2.1%	France	5.1%	4.1%	3.1%	2.1%
Italy	5.1%	4.1%	3.1%	2.1%	Spain	5.1%	4.1%	3.1%	2.1%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	France	5.00%	Japan	0.50%
UK	5.75%	Italy	5.00%	Spain	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%
Netherlands	2.50%	Sweden	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%

Tourist Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	France	5.00%	Japan	0.50%
UK	5.75%	Italy	5.00%	Spain	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%
Netherlands	2.50%	Sweden	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close	Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Long JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97

Life FTSE Index Option

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close	Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Long JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97

Industrial Metals

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close	Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Long JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97

Commodity Index

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close	Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Long JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97

Other Softs

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close	Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Long GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short GB	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short US	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Long JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Long AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97
Short JPY	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97	Short AUD	107.97	107.97	107.97	107.97

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0
AXA Equity & Low Unit Trust Managers	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0	Global Growth	145.50	145.50	0.0</

Johnston is still not Trigger happy

GREG WOOD

reports from Doncaster

He had just seen Double Trigger return from a serious foot injury to win the Doncaster Cup with all his famous swagger and resolution. Another £15,000 had been banked for his owner, and beside him his wife was shedding tears of joy and relief. It was a little surprising, then, to listen to Mark Johnston in the winners' enclosure here yesterday and discover that he was not an entirely happy man. He was delighted by the victory, of course, but Johnston will be thoroughly satisfied only when Double Trigger receives the official recognition which the trainer - not to mention many punters - believes he richly deserves. In the ratings ladder which is supposed to determine a horse's merit, Double Trigger sits on 119, which Johnston feels is at least half a dozen rungs too low.

"It's an absolute disgrace," he said yesterday. "It's totally unfair. At two miles and above he's

been beaten only once in Europe in three years, and that was by Classic Cliche in the Gold Cup when he was running with three shoes. Yet he's rated as one of the worst Gold Cup winners in the last 10 years, when we all know he's one of the best in the last 30 years. He surely deserves a rating of at least 126."

You would have found few to disagree yesterday among a Town Moor crowd which had backed Double Trigger to mass. It was clear that their confidence was well founded, despite the even favourites track, as soon as Frankie Dettori came for home three out and left his opponents treading water. Classic Cliche, his only serious rival, eventually ran on to finish second, but was flattened by the two-length margin of defeat.

Given the foot problems which have troubled Double Trigger since before Ascot, it was surely one of the finest achievements of Johnston's career to return him to the track as fresh and enthusiastic as ever. He lost two shoes prior to the Gold Cup

and then another in the race, and every time more of the hoof was coming away until there was nothing to nail to any more," he said. "We just had to wait for it to grow back."

Double Trigger's next race will probably be in the Prix du Caennais at Longchamp on Arc Wednesday, but that, it seems, will be as far as he travels this year. "I don't think we'll be going to the Melbourne Cup," Johnston said. "We don't have any sponsorship and I think the handicapper's been a bit severe on us."

A filly who appears to be going places in Reams Of Verse, Henry Cecil's seventh winner of the May Hill Stakes in the last 10 years. She is as short as 10-1 (Coral) for next year's 1,000 Guineas following yesterday's comfortable defeat of Dame Laura, though the third, closest, would have been much closer with a clear run. It is clear sign that autumn is drawing on that Reams Of Verse may now be "put away," though the Group One Fillys' Mile at Ascot later this month is a possibility.

Cecil reported that Dushyan-

tor is in great shape for tomorrow's St Leger and is confident of a bold show. "Everyone says: 'Will he stay?' But I'm not worried about that at all. It was a Jockey I'd ride him before everything else in the race - but whether I'm a good judge or not we'll see on Saturday." Chief Contender and Pricer are out of sorts and will not be among the favourites.

The Group One Prix de la Forêt at Longchamp next month is the assignment for Bishop Of Cashel, who repeated his success of 12 months ago in the Park Stakes in a manner which suggested that a step up in class will not be beyond him. Barry Hills had boldly stated before the Sceptre Stakes that if his runner, My Branch, failed to win then a deeply personal part of his anatomy "is a kipper". Hills is not man to make such statements lightly, and My Branch duly beat High Summer with considerable ease, a result which will have come as a considerable relief to whoever has the task of washing Barry's underwear.

Bahhare to break Kelleway's dreams

RICHARD EDMONDSON

When Gay Kelleway tries to drop off at night and counts horses he never gets past one particular animal. The Whitcombe trainer has been training for only two years but she already has a colt she believes will be the best she will ever prepare. He is Musheer and his ability sends a frisson through his handler. "He's just unbelievably good," Kelleway said yesterday. "Some times I can't sleep at night thinking about him."

Musheer is so talented that he has to work with older horses and even they are stretched to

keep up. "Russian Music can't get near him on the gallops," Kelleway said. "I'm not in the business of overrating horses but I'd advise anyone to back him at 25-1 for next year's Guineas."

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Bahhare (Doncaster 3.35)
NB: Bal Harbour (Doncaster 3.05)

this contest is likely to be promoted to 2,000 Guineas favouritism, but a sobering thought is that Alhaarth collected this bauld last year before turning antixim into an art form.

Bahhare beats the Alhaarth colours of Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum and was yesterday promoted to 8-1 favouritism for the Guineas by Ladbrokes. His form is as solid as an anvil as Equal Rights, whom he beat on his debut, went on to success in a Group Three event at the Curragh last month. There is no bum in the field either as the remaining runners - In Command, Reliquary and Revolve - are held in considerable es-

teem at their respective yards. In a race which will break several dreams BAHHARE (nap 3.35) is the best option.

Henry Cecil should plunder two races with colts who are overqualified for their missions. Storm Trooper (2.35) was elevated beyond his station after success in the Feilden Stakes at Newmarket on his seasonal debut but has now found company he should be able to bully. Bal Harbour (next best 3.05) has also kept company his mother would be proud of, finding only Carling too good in a Group Three race at Deauville last time. He is back among rascals in the Troy Stakes today.

DONCASTER

1.30 Lookout
2.30 Spillo (nap)
2.35 Storm Trooper
3.05 Busy Flight

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside; round mile - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best on round mile.
LEADERSHIP: Considered course with a mile straight.
CENTRAL RACEWAY STATION (served by London, King's Cross): Doncaster stands 12.10. Family Enclosure 5.15 (under 16s free for all employees). CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: A. Gosselin - 33 winners from 148 runners gives a success rate of 22.3% and a profit to a £1 level stake of £55.66; B. Hills - 27 winners, 148 runners, 18.3%, +£47.03; R. Cecil - 25 winners, 183 runners, 26.9%, +£10.69; R. Hancock - 23 winners, 245 runners, 8.9%, -£67.08.

LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery - 36 winners, 190 rides, 17.9%, +£13.93; K. Dwyer - 31 winners, 141 rides, 13.7%, +£27.35; L. Dettori - 20 winners, 183 rides, 10.9%, +£10.19; W. Carson - 19 winners, 120 rides, 15.8%, +£15.13.

BLINKERS FIRST TIME: Royal Action, Three Mile (2.00).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE ENDURERS: Macester (1.35) has been sent 241 miles by Miss Gay Kelleway from Whitcombe, Dorset.

1.30 ANCO MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added to stakes 2YO 1m

1. CAPE CROSS (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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9. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7

2.00 JOY UK HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added to stakes 1m 4f

1. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
5. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
6. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
7. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
8. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7

2.00-1. AL AZHAR (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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6. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
7. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
8. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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2. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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4. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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6. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
7. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
8. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7

HYPERION

3.35 Bahhare
4.10 Zed Decidant
4.40 Tawill (nb)

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside; round mile - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best on round mile.
LEADERSHIP: Considered course with a mile straight.
CENTRAL RACEWAY STATION (served by London, King's Cross): Doncaster stands 12.10. Family Enclosure 5.15 (under 16s free for all employees). CAR PARK: Free.

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BLINKERS FIRST TIME: Royal Action, Three Mile (2.00).

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LONG-DISTANCE ENDURERS: Macester (1.35) has been sent 241 miles by Miss Gay Kelleway from Whitcombe, Dorset.

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8. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7

2.00 JOY UK HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added to stakes 1m 4f

1. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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7. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
8. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7

2.00-1. AL AZHAR (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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7. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
8. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7

2.00-1. AL AZHAR (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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8. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. 1.00.00. D. Hill 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7

2.35 RJB MINING CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £12,500 added 1m 2f 60yds

1. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
5. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
6. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
7. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
8. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7

3.05 O & K TROY STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed race) £12,000 added 1m 2f 60yds

1. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
5. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
6. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
7. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
8. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
9. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
10. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7

3.35 LAURENT-PIERRE CHAMPAGNE STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 2) £55,000 added 2YO colts & geldings 1m

1. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
3. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
4. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
5. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
6. 3.00.00. W. Carson 3.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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Worcester

2.20 Tuko 2.55 Clifton Set 3.25 Anchorage
3.55 Captain Khevis 4.30 Martha's Daughter
5.00 Gony

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside; round mile - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best on round mile.
LEADERSHIP: Considered course with a mile straight.
CENTRAL RACEWAY STATION (served by London, King's Cross): Worcester stands 12.10. Family Enclosure 5.15 (under 16s free for all employees). CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: A. Gosselin - 33 winners from 148 runners gives a success rate of 22.3% and a profit to a £1 level stake of £55.66; B. Hills - 27 winners, 148 runners, 18.3%, +£47.03; R. Cecil - 25 winners, 183 runners, 26.9%, +£10.69; R. Hancock - 23 winners, 245 runners, 8.9%, -£67.08.

LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery - 36 winners, 190 rides, 17.9%, +£13.93; K. Dwyer - 31 winners, 141 rides, 13.7%, +£27.35; L. Dettori - 20 winners, 183 rides, 10.9%, +£10.19; W. Carson - 19 winners, 120 rides, 15.8%, +£15.13.

BLINKERS FIRST TIME: Royal Action, Three Mile (2.00).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE ENDURERS: Macester (1.35) has been sent 241 miles by Miss Gay Kelleway from Whitcombe, Dorset.

1.30 ANCO MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added to stakes 2YO 1m

1. CAPE CROSS (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
2. FORTUNE ARROW (2) (2) (Shah Mubarak) 1.00.00. J. Dettori 7
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2.00 JOY UK HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added to stakes 1m 4f

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sport

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Italians make football look a foreign language to Ferguson's men. Glenn Moore reports

Back to the blackboard for United

It seems it is no longer just the children who go back to school every September. Footballers, too, resume their education each autumn, in European studies.

"We will learn from that," Alex Ferguson said of Manchester United's Champions' League defeat by Juventus on Wednesday. Now where have we heard that before?

The problem, it seems, is that the syllabus is changing each year. No sooner do we absorb the lessons of last season than there are new ones to deal with.

Juventus, on Wednesday, showed the blend of British and European qualities which our sides have been aspiring to achieve for years. They were physically powerful and technically adept. They were capable of playing just as quickly as Premiership teams but possessed an ability to slow the tempo that is largely absent from these shores.

If that were not enough, the back four was as well drilled as George Graham's Arsenal and their forward movement was worth recording on video for use in coaching seminars. It was certainly more fluid, inventive and sharper than United's defenders usually experience.

Even the short cut of using foreign players does not appear to have helped our development. Manchester United and Rangers each had seven overseas players in their 16-man squads on Wednesday, yet both were not so much beaten as dismissed.

In Turin, the swaggering champions of the English Premiership started so nervously they barely got the ball out of their own half until they were behind. According to reports, Rangers were no better in Zurich, and that against much lesser opponents.

By the end, both clubs were reduced to seeking consolation in the failings of others. The stalemate between Rapid Vienna and Fenerbahçe gives Manchester United hope that they may still qualify for the quarter-finals of the Champions' League. Rangers were equally relieved that Ajax won in Auxerre. Should the Scottish champions win their home games against Auxerre and Grasshopper—and do no worse against Ajax—they, too, could qualify.

What humiliations might then await those not bearing thinking about—though there was a further bonus for United in Porto's win over Milan. The run-



Seat of learning: There were plenty of new lessons for the Manchester United bench in Turin on Wednesday

Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

ners-up in United's group play the winner of Milan's Porto will not be easy opponents but, that result notwithstanding, they are not Milan.

First United have to qualify. There is hope in the news that Roy Keane is back in training. His drive was badly missed. But what is to be done about the attack? United managed two shots in 90 minutes on Wednesday, a tame, wide effort from 25 yards by Ryan Giggs in the first

minute, and a volley well over the bar by Brian McClair around the hour—this from a team who score from their own half in the Premiership.

Jordi Cruyff and Karel Poborsky contributed little on the flanks in defence or attack, but the most obvious problem was the lack of a leader of the line. Eric Cantona was clearly uncomfortable in that role. Cantona's best work is usually done through prompting from mid-

field, or arriving late in the box. When played at centre-forward, he is too easily marked and his creativity is emasculated.

Not is he a holder of the ball: he prefers the quick flick-out. Without a Mark Hughes-figure to hold the ball up, the defence was placed under intolerable pressure. Andy Cole, even when fit, does not appear the part and neither, yet, does Ole Solkejaer. Maybe Ferguson—who pursued both Alan Shearer and Alen

Boksic in the summer—will be forced into the market again, though any signing cannot now play in Europe until after Christmas.

If Ferguson does buy, he is likely to go continental again. It will not have escaped the watching Glenn Hoddle's notice that Juventus used 10 Italians on Wednesday, whereas United used five Englishmen (of whom only Gary Pallister emerged with credit).

There was one aspect of the night in which the Italians were found wanting. A noticeable section of the home support booed Cole after he came on as a substitute each time he came near the ball. Since he had barely managed a tackle, let alone a foul, it could only be racism. Such collective, systematic racist abuse has virtually disappeared from English grounds but is a growing problem in Italy.

England session called off by RFU

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN and TERRY O'CONNOR

The Rugby Football Union yesterday scored a tactical victory by postponing next Wednesday's England training session—thus avoiding confrontation over a possible second boycott—to give players time to consider an increased pay offer which could see them earn £700,000 a season.

However, another problem is looming, with leading referees, many of whom are reported to be unhappy with their arrangements with Twickenham, having been approached on an individual basis by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs about going along with the clubs' impending breakaway from the RFU.

An Epruc official yesterday confirmed that there had been informal talks with referees and one of the topics was that of full-time professionalism.

"They [Epruc] are seriously talking about a breakaway of players," said a leading referee, who is presently paid £200 per match, "and they seem to think it will happen, so obviously the next in line is us, the referees. They need us to manage the games, so we are clearly going to be dragged into this whole thing. I know they have money available for referees." Whether they would turn professional with Epruc or the RFU, he would not say.

The RFU's new pay offer to England players compares with the £36,000 the over-35s players collected last season in the first year of professional rugby union. The offer—which will double the income of all but the highest earners—comes just over a week after the players' boycott, when more than 40 of them refused to attend a squad session at Bisham Abbey.

They have a scheduled meeting with their own clubs today and this time the players can ask if Epruc is demanding they reject a fortune from Twickenham. Donald Kerr, the chairman of Epruc, said: "The initial reaction among the squad will be one of disappointment. They believed that they would receive £60,000 plus £5,000 per match—a total of £84,000. But the Epruc issue is not about money. It is about the future of club rugby in a professional age."

However, the Wasps flanker Lawrence Dallaglio, one of the candidates for the England captaincy, seemed perfectly happy with the offer. "We did not know what to expect, just that we wanted more [money] than last year," he said. "But people will play for England regardless of what they are paid."

Unlike the rest of rugby, the Barbarians have refused to succumb in the new professional age and are retaining the amateur principles of no payment for playing. "None of the players involved to date have asked for payment and I hope this will continue," said Mick Steele-Bodger, the club's president and a former England player.

FA Cup dispute erupts

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

Stevenage Borough, the GM Vauxhall Conference champions, and 13 fellow members of their league, enter the FA Cup this weekend at the first qualifying round stage—which, according to the Conference, is a travesty.

Although the Nationwide League Third and Fourth Division clubs do not enter the Cup until the first round proper in November, over half the clubs from the Conference will have to play at least four matches to reach that stage. Only four non-League clubs are exempt from qualifying for the first round: Macclesfield and Northwich, last season's Trophy finalists, and Woking and Enfield, the two non-League

clubs with the best recent record in the Cup. Twenty non-League teams are exempt until the fourth qualifying round—but that list includes such relatively lowly teams as Colwyn Bay, Asford and Spennymoor and excludes the likes of Yeovil Town and Boston United as well as the 14 Conference clubs.

The Conference wants the exemption rules altered. Bill King, its chairman, said this week: "We have reached the stage where the FA Cup has simply lost touch with the structure of senior football. Supporters keep asking us why the likes of Stevenage are competing at such an early stage of the competition. There is no logic to the existing exemption rules."

King points out that it is impossible to schedule midweek league fixtures because of cup

replays, and that league standings become unbalanced because teams in the Cup from the early stages have played several games less than their exempt rivals by the end of October. Also, cup commitments can mean clubs going several weeks without a home game.

However, the FA is happy with the exemption rules as they stand. Its spokesman, Steve Double, points out that exemptions are based on past performances in the Cup. "Having little clubs playing bigger teams is part of the romance and tradition of the Cup even at this early stage," he said yesterday.

Stevenage are away to Arlesey tomorrow at Hitchin Town's ground, while Southport visit Rossendale United and Kettering travel to Rochester in two other little-and-large ties.

ARGENTINA

Even by the standards of his colourful career, last week was an exceptional one for José Luis Chilavert, goalkeeper for the Argentine club, Vélez Sarsfield, and the Paraguayan national team.

Chilavert began the week by scoring the 32nd goal of his career with a long-distance free-kick to earn his country a 1-1 draw in a World Cup qualifier in Argentina. He ended it by defying a 13-month ban imposed by a Buenos Aires court (along with a three-month suspended jail sentence) for punching a stadium steward on the head in a match between Gimnasia La Plata and Vélez in April 1994. Chilavert, a national hero in his home country, is an extrovert character who wears a bulldog motif on his jerseys, abuses



AROUND THE WORLD

opponents in the press—and has declared an ambition to become president of Paraguay. He has scored 28 goals from the penalty spot and four from free-kicks, including one in a club game from inside his own half just after River Plate's German Burgos, the keeper he beat in last week's World Cup tie.

After Chilavert was banned, his lawyers launched an appeal so that he can carry on playing for club and country while FIFA is investigating the case—

it is unhappy that it has been dealt with by law courts rather than sporting authorities.

Chilavert claims that he is being victimised by the press and the authorities because of his nationality. "It bothers a lot of people that I am the best," he said. "But they're the sort who think that Paraguayans should be on a building site or cleaning people's homes."

SPAIN

First: Atletico Madrid had to re-turf the Vicente Calderón stadium because of an invasion of worms—now Barcelona have been struck down by the Spanish pitch plague. Last night's Cup Winners' Cup tie against AEL Larissa had to be switched, just a few hours before kick-off, to Montjuïc Olympic stadium. Heavy rain had caused

POLAND

Germany's 2-0 friendly win in Poland last week, their first since winning the European Championship, was overshadowed by off-the-field events.

The German foreign minister had to apologise for the conduct of some visiting "fans" in Zabrze after a gang of skinheads gave Nazi salutes during the German anthem and chanted: "We invaded Poland again" and "We came here to beat up Jews." Five Germans were taken away and given probation orders for various offences, including burning Polish flags.

Rupert Metcalf

Lewis lines up McCall

Boxing

Britain's Lennox Lewis, thwarted in his attempts to fight Mike Tyson for at least a year, is being forced to pursue another route to a heavyweight title.

Not even the World Boxing Council's imminent decision to strip Tyson of its title seems likely to lead to a match-up. That would enable Lewis to fight his only conqueror, Oliver McCall, for the vacant WBC title on 24 September. The bout is set for 1 or 22 November, possibly at the London Arena.

"The biggest thing for us is

for Tyson to be stripped of the WBC title. That would give us a greater position of strength," Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, said yesterday.

Lewis, who, lost his WBC crown to McCall in September 1994, said: "Tyson is obviously the major fight for me. It's the one the whole world wants. That is my agenda. But I've definitely got to fight McCall to get that WBC belt back."

Lewis's American promoter, Dino Duva, added: "The purse bids will decide the Lewis-McCall fight. Then we can determine the date and venue. We want to put it where Lennox wants it."

Bowman aims for 18th title

Equestrianism

GENEVIÈVE MURPHY

George Bowman will be aiming to win the national title for the 18th time when he competes with his team of four horses in the National Carriage Driving Championships, which begin today in Windsor Great Park.

Twelve days ago, the 61-year-old Cumberland won his second successive individual silver medal at the World Championships in Belgium.

Bowman was also on the bronze medal team with Karen Bassett and her sister, Pippa Thomas, the only two women to take part in the event. "It was very nice to be on the team with them. I think all the others were jealous of me," he said.

Bassett will be defending the national title she won last year after Bowman was forced to retire on the marathon section because of problems in one of the bays. Georgina Frith will also be aiming to repeat last year's success with her team of ponies.

Meanwhile, every effort is being made to raise the profile of the Horse of the Year Show, which takes place at Wembley Arena from 2 to 6 October.

The Cadre Noir, the French national school of equestrianism, will provide their impressive displays of classical riding on the last three days of the meeting. It is hoped that this will give a boost to the show jumping contests.

There will also be much needed improvements to the infrastructure of the event, including a new computerised scoreboard.

The show, which lost £240,000 in 1994 and costs £1.2m to stage, has shown encouraging signs of regaining its popularity. Ticket sales are up by 89 per cent compared with this time last year, and sponsorship has increased by 50 per cent.



FANTASY FOOTBALL

Check your team scores every Wednesday and Sunday

PHILIPS

Let's make things better

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship

First day of four, today 10.30

Derbyshire v Warwickshire

Derbyshire won toss. Derbyshire won toss. Derbyshire won toss.

Durham v Lancashire

Durham won toss. Durham won toss. Durham won toss.

Gloucestershire v Somerset

Gloucestershire won toss. Gloucestershire won toss. Gloucestershire won toss.

Kent v Surrey

Kent won toss. Kent won toss. Kent won toss.

Leicestershire v Northants

Leicestershire won toss. Leicestershire won toss. Leicestershire won toss.

Middlesex v Essex

Middlesex won toss. Middlesex won toss. Middlesex won toss.

Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire

Nottinghamshire won toss. Nottinghamshire won toss. Nottinghamshire won toss.

Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire

Oxfordshire won toss. Oxfordshire won toss. Oxfordshire won toss.

Warwickshire v Leicestershire

Warwickshire won toss. Warwickshire won toss. Warwickshire won toss.

Llong keeps Kent in touch

ROUND-UP

Nigel Llong scored his second Championship century of the season at Canterbury where he kept alive their outside title hopes against Hampshire.

Llong (105no) was supported by Carl Hooper (84) and Trevor Ward (79), who put on 137 for the third wicket, as well as Mark Ealham (54no) with whom Llong shared an unbeaten stand of 127 for the fifth wicket as Kent closed on 376 for 4. Yorkshire were out for 187 at Scarborough and reached 163 for 2 by the close. Chris Silverwood

celebrated the award of his county cap with three wickets; Darren Gough also took three.

Mark Alleyne's first Championship century of the season enabled Gloucestershire to recover from 37 for 4 to 326 for 9 against Worcestershire at New Road. Monte Lynch made 70 and Tom Moody took 5 for 66.

Fran Holloway's 109 helped Somerset to 289 for 5 against Middlesex at Uxbridge while Jason Gallian's third century of the season took Lancashire to 337 for 8 at Northampton after Steve Richards had fallen to the second ball of the match, caught behind by Ibbi Bailey, making his first-class debut.

Middlesex v Somerset

Middlesex won toss. Middlesex won toss. Middlesex won toss.

Gloucestershire v Worcestershire

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Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire

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Somerset v Gloucestershire

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TODAY'S NUMBER

-3

Teignmouth FC are bottom of the Devon County League with minus three points. Having lost all seven games to date, they have had three points deducted for playing two unregistered players under false names in a match last week.

THE INDEPENDENT CRICKET LINES

County	Score
Derbyshire	0891 525 330
Essex	0891 525 371
Gloucestershire	0891 525 372
Leicestershire	0891 525 373
Northants	0891 525 374
Nottinghamshire	0891 525 375
Oxfordshire	0891 525 376
Somerset	0891 525 377
Surrey	0891 525 378
Warwickshire	0891 525 379
Worcestershire	0891 525 380
Yorkshire	0891 525 381

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Faldo falls out of step with swing

Sapsford leads way to the best of British

specialist doubles pairing of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde. Woodbridge has withdrawn from the world group qualifying tie against Croatia in Split next week to undergo minor surgery.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Leicestershire make short work of Durham as nearest rivals for the title all suffer a frustrating day

Simmons tightens the leaders' grip

Cork's injury hurts Derby

HENRY BLOFELD
reports from Chester-le-Street
Durham 126
Leicestershire 253-5

It may seem uncharitable to describe a first-class county as cannon fodder, yet it is hard to think of a more apt description for Durham at the moment. For much of the day they offered scarcely more than token resistance to Leicestershire, who

picked up their fourth bowling point in the sixth over of the afternoon and by the close had added two more for batting. Leicestershire will have come to Riverside hoping for, if not expecting, 24 points from this game. But some callous batting on an awkward pitch cost them wickets in the evening, which may still mean that they will have to settle for less than four batting points. Weather permitting, they will surely go on to win the match.

At the moment, Durham are rudderless and all the fight seems to have gone out of them. It would be hard to imagine a much more awful piece of cricket than that in the three overs after lunch, when Phil Simmons, who finished with career-best figures of 6 for 14, took four wickets in 12 balls.

He bowled the first over of the afternoon and his first ball to Stuart Hutton, who had batted through the morning for 30, was short and outside the off stump. Without any serious footwork, Hutton waved his bat at it and gave the easiest of catches to second slip.

Simmons' next five balls and the following over by Adrian Pierson were defended successfully and then Simmons started another over to Mike Roseberry. He came forward to the first ball but played no stroke and was leg before. Three balls later Mervyn Bates played forward with his bat away from his body and was

caught behind. Two balls after that, Alan Walker departed in similar fashion. At no more than medium pace, Simmons is accurate and finds movement off the seam but he was never unplayable as these figures would suggest, even allowing for a helpful pitch.

No one has worked harder for or contributed more to Leicestershire's success this year than Simmons. It was appropriate that he should have been such an influence on a day which has strengthened their position at the top of the table. He is the most likeable and has, in all respects, been an exemplary overseas player.

The ignominy of Durham's collapse from 93 for 2 to 126 all out was highlighted by the hectic start they were given by Sherwin Campbell. He hooked Alan Mullally for four and six in the day's first over and made 35 before cutting at David Mills and being caught behind.

JON CULLEY
reports from Derby
Derbyshire 242
Warwickshire 131-5

This was not the best of days for Derbyshire, who missed points in their pursuit of a first championship for 60 years and then lost the services of Dominic Cork, probably for the remainder of the season.

Cork made a breezy 29, valuable runs in the circumstances, and in full flow clattered three fours in one over from Doug Brown, giving the impression that the blow on the shoulder he had suffered in his second ball, from a fast bowler, was of little consequence.

After he was out, however, he found himself in increasing discomfort and although he took the field when Warwickshire batted he had to withdraw without bowling. A visit to hospital revealed a fracture in the upper part of the humerus. Cork will take no further part in this match and it would be optimistic to suggest he might recover to face Durham next Thursday.

This was a particularly unfortunate blow for Derbyshire, who had gone into the match with only four front-line bowlers, having had to rule out Kevin Dean because of a cracked and dislocated finger. In Cork's absence, Derbyshire were hauled back into the match by Philip DeFreitas, who bowled with great conviction in the evening to claim four wickets as the outgoing champions saw a strong position turn rapidly into a much weaker one.

Happy as they were with the prospect of a first-innings lead, it was a matter of regret for Dean Jones' side that they had garnered only a single batting point. Perhaps the greenish wicket was part of some gambit by Jones. If it was, it backfired when Warwickshire woo the toss and chose to bowl.

From the moment the first bowling change removed Kim Barnett in Graeme Welch's initial over, Derbyshire were unable to make much headway before another wicket tripped them up.

Derbyshire were indebted to Chris Adams, who out-shone his colleagues to the extent that the seventh century of the season looked well within his scope until a Gladstone Small inswinger undid him on 80. Karl Krikken received the unexpected support of Devon Malcolm in adding 39 for the last wicket, but their quest to snatch a second batting point failed.

Warwickshire seemed in control as Nick Knight and Andy Moele put on 79 for the first wicket. The balance tilted as DeFreitas took 4 for 22 in seven overs, but Derbyshire's mood was clouded by the loss of Cork.

Wells takes advantage of Essex lapses

DEREK PRINGLE
reports from Chelmsford
Sussex 361-8 v Essex

Exorcising the recent past has been something of an Essex speciality, but despite the tonic of their returning Australian, Stuart Law, the spectre of last Saturday's NatWest nightmare still lingers. Sussex and their captain, Alan Wells, took full advantage, the visiting captain compiling a fluent 122.

It was only Wells' second century of the season, the first coming over three months ago on 6 June against lowly Durham. Consistently Sussex's best batsman over the last decade, his lack of indulgence this season (he has only just passed 1,000 Championship runs) probably goes some way to explaining why the visitors have lost their way, and their last four games.

However, Essex know better than to rely on an opponent's generosity at this stage of the season, although no one would have guessed by the way they bowled that they had pretensions to a seventh Championship title.

Perhaps they expected the visitors, who won the toss, to go belly up here. If so, they should have bowled with a little more urgency, particularly early on, when the pitch offered a helping hand to those prepared to bowl an awkward off stump line.

Later, despite a veneer of cloud cover, that generosity had dwindled, a point Ian Salisbury amplified with a freely stroked 69. One loathed shot for six off Peter Such over mid-wicket lost the ball. That no doubt offered some satisfaction to Salisbury, who finds himself without a tour to go on this winter.

The loss of Neil Williams, still indisposed after pulling up lame last Saturday, did not help the Essex cause either. Williams has, according to many here, bowled better than anyone over the last month. Although his new-ball replacement, Ashley Cowan, struck quickly to send back Bill Athey for six, both he and Mark Ilett allowed late season niggles to get to them. Neil Lenham pounced upon that weakness in making an assured 55 as runs came quickly.

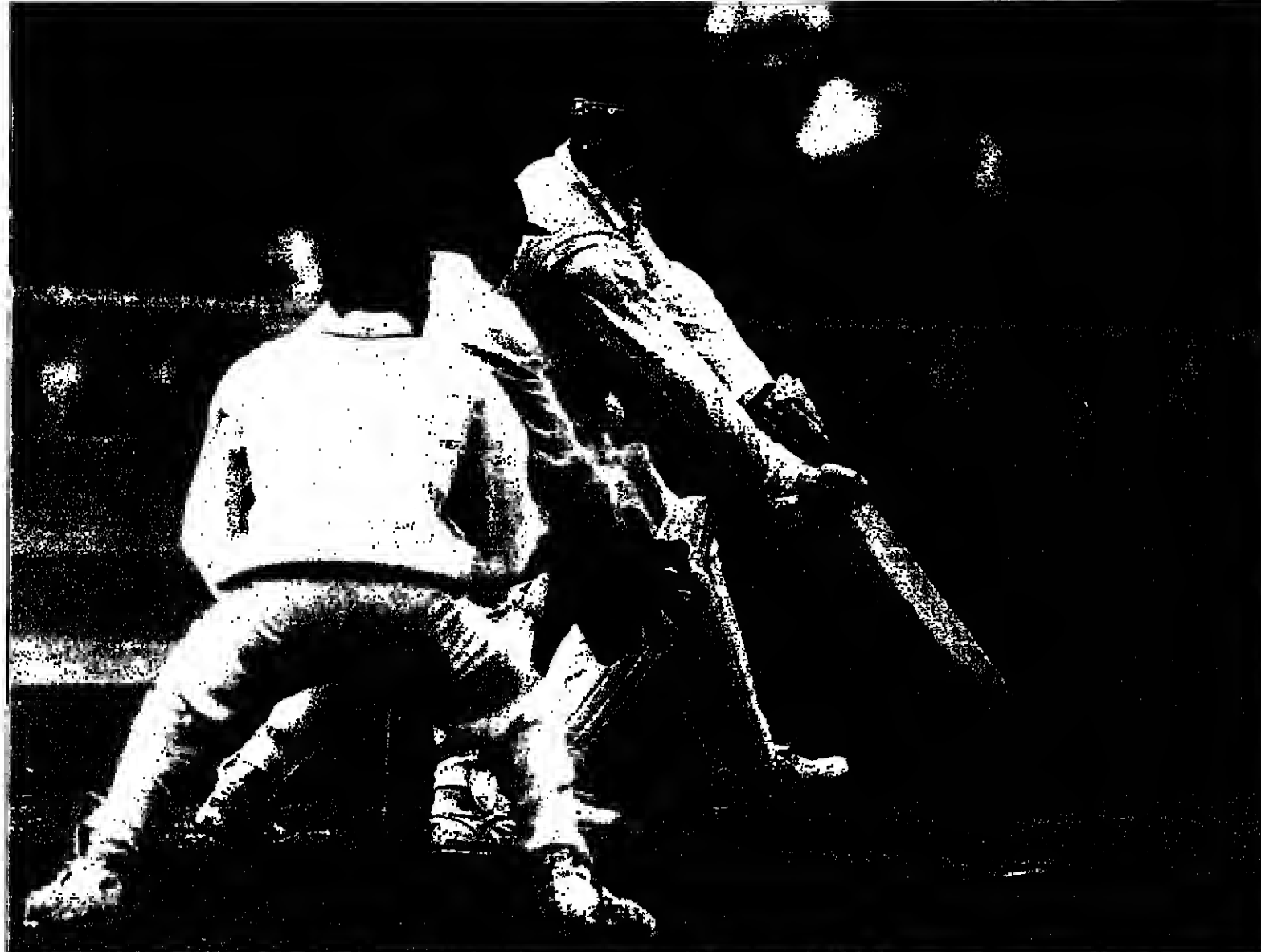
Only the introduction of Peter Such stemmed the early flow as Lenham and Keith Greenfield succumbed to the off-spinner's numbing accuracy. Wells was not as easily entranced or outwitted as Such's

third victim, Danny Law, who holed out at mid-on for nought. The catching was less than pin sharp as well, Robert Rollins spilling a chance from Keith Greenfield as the edge split the gap between

wicketkeeper and slip. Having held a good catch at slip to get rid of Peter Moores, Graham Gooch dropped another before spilling Wells, on 117, off Such at short mid-wicket.

The latter was not an expensive miss, but Gooch can be such a cussed character that he is far more likely to retire because of changed catches than any batting infirmity. However, according to Keith Fletcher, Essex's cricket consultant, he has been in fine fettle in both departments and plans to continue for yet another season.

It is during Gooch's quarter of a century at the club that the Essex character, that of part magician, part scrapper, evolved. They urgently need those powers if they are to stay in this Championship race.



Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan batsman, cuts a delivery from Richard Pearson past Alec Stewart and Chris Lewis yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

Dale deals with erratic Surrey attack

DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from Cardiff
Glamorgan 351-9 v Surrey

Everyone has the occasional bad day at the office. Yesterday it was Surrey's turn, only in their case it was a bad day in the field. If they were not taking (and breaking) wickets with no balls, then they were breaking their bowlers' hearts by uncharacteristic fielding errors and wild throws which resulted in a couple of fives to the grateful Glamorgan batsmen.

The day had begun badly for the second-placed side when the wicketkeeper, Graham Kersey, pulled out with a fractured right thumb, leaving Alec Stewart to don the gloves. The Surrey captain then had the misfortune to lose the toss on an unhelpful wicket. With just one recognised spinner, Richard Pearson, compared with Glamorgan's two - Dean Cosker and England's Robert Croft - the portents were not good.

The signing for two years of Waqar Younis, the Pakistan fast bowler, means there is no place for the Barbadian all-rounder in the future. Gibson took the future to mean now and was left out of the side, because of what was diplomatically described by Glamorgan as a lack of commitment.

The early departures of Steve James and Hugh Morris must have set hearts fluttering and raised hopes in Surrey breasts; but sentiments, however, proved wide of the mark as first Matthew Maynard and then Adrian Dale dealt comfortably with everything that

Surrey could bowl at them. Maynard had already scored four Championship hundreds and must have kicked himself when he clubbed a Joey Benjamin delivery straight at Pearson when 18 runs away from a further century.

Dale took up the cudgels and, as the Surrey attack wilted in the long afternoon, hit his way to within sight of three figures. However, after more than three hours, he suddenly played across a straight ball from Pearson and was bowled.

The new man Cosker was bowled in the next over, his leg stump hit by Brendon Julian,

but such was Surrey's luck that although the delivery broke the stump and a substitute had to be found, Cosker survived, because the delivery was deemed a no ball. Martin Bicknell, too, had little to cheer. He was twice warned for running on to the wicket - once at each end; a third transgression would have seen him "sent off" for the rest of the innings.

Bicknell corrected the problem and was there at the close - by which time Surrey had picked up a vital fourth bowling bonus point, the first of their targets for this match. Today they must match that feat with the bat.

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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3991, Friday 13 September By Miss Thursday's Solution

ACROSS

1 Presentation of short study on vestments (8)

5 One leaping fish landing outside Northern river (6)

9 Launch a draw in popular fashion (8)

10 Tree planted in Paddy's border? (6)

11 Underworld reportedly ridicules a cover-up (8)

12 Bluebeard, the dandy? (6)

14 Queen captured by enemy piece - but there's no mate here? (10)

18 Daughter is found about end of August, miles away (10)

22 Together during time before decree (6)

23 Do course, reorganised and refined (8)

24 Having passion for baking (6)

25 'Sloth in the Garden', shown by gallery? (8)

26 Weed Edward reduced (6)

27 Mesmer's active after one goes under (8)

DOWN

1 Elect European leader mentioned in letter (6)

2 The French screen craze (6)

3 Mist in a State prior to the Fall? (6)

4 The two R's? (5,5)

6 Who's from Maine, involved with car? (8)

7 Over fifty in contest (8)

8 Start cutting grass that's cropped up again (8)

13 General Election? (10)

15 Owned up to being taken in (8)

16 Coteries dabbling in occult (8)

17 Routine play, in evaluation (8)

19 Black cat in animation (6)

20 Attacks and brawls about nothing (6)

21 Like birds in the trees (6)

Bjornebye brings joy to Liverpool

MyPa-47
Liverpool

Stig Inge Bjornebye, making his debut in a European competition for Liverpool, earned the Merseysiders the distinction of being the Premiership's only victors in a week of foreign adventure. His lone goal in last night's European Cup-Winners Cup first round, first leg match in Anjalankoski, Finland, was enough to defeat a team who have yet to win on home turf in any European competition.

Liverpool began brightly with Robbie Fowler turning quickly to send a snap shot agonisingly past the goal. Bjornebye then picked out Steve McManis, but his finishing was also proficient.

There was a moment of danger for Liverpool when Mika Hernesniemi punted a long ball forward, forcing David James to race off the goal line to clear as Mauri Keskitalo waited menacingly for the goalkeeper to err.

Fowler broke free from his marker, the former Aston Villa defender David Moore, only to slice his shot wide of the post. The Finnish side caused anxiety in the Liverpool defence when a back pass from John Barnes compromised Phil Babb. Sami Mahlio was allowed to run on as Liverpool backpedalled, but he squandered the chance.

Liverpool countered, and Bjornebye's threatening cross found the defender Mika Viljanen, whose sliced clearance narrowly missed his own net. In common with British club's endeavours in Europe the previous night, Liverpool struggled to assert themselves. When Keskitalo released Hernesniemi on the right, the Liverpool defence failed to pick up his cross. Fortunately for the beaten FA Cup finalists, it found no target.

Jason McAteer responded with a firm drive from the cusp of the area and Stan Collymore carved out another opening minutes later when he attempted to put Fowler clear. The alert Moore intercepted, however, to concede a corner. Liverpool came close to opening the scoring when the MyPa goalkeeper, Petri Jakonen, dropped a corner from Bjornebye. Babb's shot was cleared off the line by Viljanen. Jakonen was then forced to make a fine save as Collymore flicked the ball on from another accurate Bjornebye cross.

After the break, Liverpool began to step up the pace, Collymore shooting wide after Barnes and Michael Thomas had combined. Bjornebye made the breakthrough after 61 minutes when McAteer's cross was only half-cleared. Bjornebye kicked the ball home from just inside the penalty area. It was only his second goal for Liverpool, his first coming against Middlesbrough on the opening day of the season.

MyPa-47: Jakonen; Viljanen, Moore, Mahlio, Phil Babb, Bicknell, Gibson, John Kinnear, Neil Nesbitt, Hutton, Alan, Stubbins; Jari Hietanen, Erno, Juhani, Hargreaves, Lennon, Liverpool; Jason McAteer, Wayne, Beth, Michael, Collymore, Fowler, Barnes, Thomas, Borneby, Stubbins, Neil Nesbitt, Warner, Russell, Bigger, I. Jones. Referee: G. Ormon (Ireland).

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Waddle poised for a move to Scotland

Football
NICK DUXBURY

Chris Waddle, who once commanded a £4.25m transfer fee, is poised to join Falkirk, who are third from bottom of the Scottish First Division.

The 35-year-old former England winger was released by Sheffield Wednesday last week and could make his debut in tomorrow's home game against Clydebank.

"I don't want to say too much at this stage because Chris has not yet signed the deal," Eamonn Bannon, the Falkirk manager, said. "He is coming here tonight to dot the

it's and cross the t's on a short-term contract."

The move north has been brokered and financed by the Falkirk director Neil Blinnie, who has business interests in Sheffield.

Falkirk were relegated from the Premier Division last season and chairman George Fulston revealed that he had looked elsewhere. "I tried to sign Superman, but he wasn't available," he said. "We are looking for anyone who can put points on the board."

Tottenham paid £590,000 for Waddle in 1985 and four years later he made a £4.25m move to Marseille. Wednesday paid £1m to bring him back in 1992. Falkirk have enjoyed sound service in the past from English players like Simon Stainrod and Tony Parks, while Andy Gray, the former Tottenham winger, is currently on the playing staff.

Waddle's wage in Scotland is unknown, but it is unlikely to be in Slaven Bili's league - the Croatian having been offered £10,000 a week to stay at West Ham United and not succumb

to Tottenham or Manchester United's advances.

"It is too early to say what the conclusion will be, but I think and hope I will stay," the 28-year-old defender said.

Dariusz Wondolczyk has asked First Division Reading for a transfer after a half-time dispute during Tuesday's 3-2 defeat at West Brom. The rift comes four months after the 33-year-old defender, signed a two-year extension to his contract.

Wondolczyk did not emerge for the second half because of a groin strain. "I did my best but

I couldn't go on," the former Polish international said. "Jim Quinn told me he was not happy with me coming off. I don't want to play for those managers [Quinn and Mick Gonding] again."

Bryan Robson and Graeme Souness have asked for personal hearings of their disciplinary charges. Both managers were reported by Premiership referee Mike Riley for comments allegedly made to him after matches last month. Wolves are to appeal against the decision of a Football League commission who ordered them to pay Leicester City damages of £250,000 over the transfer of keeper Zeljko Kalac.